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THURSDAY, JANUARY 21ST 2016

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**OUR FILM CRITIC LOOKS AT LEO'S 'BRUTAL' NEW MOVIE**  
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## Porthcawl's Harbourside project now close to the next big step

THE team behind the Porthcawl Harbourside project is putting on an exhibition this weekend, so that people in the town can have a close-up look at the proposals, writes **PHILIP IRWIN**.

Members of the team will be at the Y Centre in John Street, Saturday and Sunday, July 23 and 24, to explain how the plan to construct a maritime centre near the harbour is progressing.

It is fair to say that the project is unique for Porthcawl, because the building – with an estimated construction cost of £7 million – is to be funded by applying for grant aid from a variety of bodies.

Mike Clarke, the chair of Porthcawl Harbourside Community Interest Company (CIC) told The GEM that Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) were unable to make funds available, due to the present economic climate.

He added: "BCBC have been very supportive in terms of making the land available through an asset transfer, and

through the amount of officer time they have allocated, but it has been down to the team at Porthcawl Harbourside to raise the funds by applying for grants."

The asset transfer process also opens up a mechanism whereby the project could receive up to £1.1 million from the Big Lottery Fund. A total of £50,000 has already been received for development work.

Also helping the team get to where they are now was a grant of £297,000 from the Coastal Communities Fund, and this has helped them draw up detailed plans for a striking building.

Now, however, the team is "quietly confident" that the big grant – the one that will enable construction work to start – is just around the corner.

Builders like to use the phrase 'landmark building' but it is accurate in this case.

Together with the privately-funded plans to transform Jennings Building into a mix of living space, restaurant, cafe and business units, it has the potential to make the 'Harbourside Quarter' a real tourist destination.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)

## STROKE CLUB'S FLORAL TOUCH!



PICTURED, above, are Porthcawl Stroke Club members Mrs Yvonne Guttridge and Mr Lyn Guttridge, who give up their time every year to show members how to make a floral Christmas table centre-piece at a workshop.

In December, another annual event took place on behalf of the Porthcawl Stroke Club; when Porthcawl Male Voice Choir sang at the Grove Golf Club, under the leadership of musical

director Mrs Mair Jones and accompanist Mr Richard Davies. The choir raised £265 for the Porthcawl Stroke Club and we thank all who participated.

On January 2, a wedding took place – congratulations to Miriam Barker club treasurer and David Finch, now our Mr and Mrs! We wish them both many happy years together.

Anyone wishing to join the Porthcawl Stroke Club can call chairman Mr Keith Duggan on 01656 773376. BM

## Council meetings will be live on the web...

STARTING this month, some of the most important public meetings held by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) will be made available to view live online.

The local authority will begin webcasting a selection of its cabinet, council and committee meetings.

The meetings will be transmitted

live, and will also be recorded and archived so that residents can watch them at their convenience.

The council has been awarded funding from the Welsh Government to produce the webcasts of meetings that are held in the Council Chamber at the Civic Offices in Bridgend.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

*Emmy Love*  
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## Local nature reserve gets a £100,000 makeover



Kenfig National Nature Reserve.

**NEARLY £100,000 is being spent on improving opportunities for people to learn more about the fascinating habitats found at Kenfig National Nature Reserve, while the site is also in the running for a national award.**

New signage and interpretation boards will all be installed at the reserve, as well as a large mural that will provide an extra burst of colour to welcome visitors. Depicting seven of the key species found at Kenfig, the mural is being created by artist Andy O'Rourke and will cover the entire east side of the visitor centre. The mural will be unveiled in March.

School visits will also be enhanced with a new teacher pack being produced that will be full of activities that students can undertake at the reserve, which is both a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation. A number of new bins will also be added around the reserve.

The improvements have been funded thanks to a grant Bridgend County Borough Council secured from Natural Resources Wales, which the council matched from its rural development programme so that a total of £94,000 can be invested.

Supporting the project, Coun Charles Smith, the council's cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, said: "This funding will help us to improve the visitor information and interpretation that can be found around the reserve, helping people to find out more about one of the

most remarkable sand dune and wetlands habitats in Europe.

"We are mindful of the need to strike a sensitive balance between encouraging visitors and conserving the reserve's ecology, so as well as making it easier for visitors to find out about the reserve's history and unique landscape while they walk around it, a big priority will be to inform each person about the role that they can play in the reserve's environmental conservation."

Kenfig National Nature Reserve Manager, David Carrington, said: "We welcome this funding for an initiative which will enhance visitors' enjoyment of the reserve and foster responsible use. There is so much to learn about the wonderful wildlife and fascinating human history of the site. Walkers, bird watchers, horse riders, dog walkers, orchid enthusiasts, surfers, runners, anglers and holiday makers all come to Kenfig."

"We are keen to encourage appropriate behaviour by our many visitors to ensure the reserve's wildlife continues to thrive and people of all interests can enjoy their visit."

Kenfig's popularity is also shown by the fact it has been shortlisted as one of only five nature reserves from across the UK to be in the running to be named as BBC Countryfile Magazine's Nature Reserve of the Year. Voting closes on January 31 and the public can show support for Kenfig by voting at [www.countryfile.com](http://www.countryfile.com)

## Scrapbooks record history of the WI

**AT the Coychurch WI's January meeting, president Sandra Davidson welcomed members and guests, Sandra Rich and Renee Cureton, by wishing everyone a happy and healthy new year.**

The business of the meeting included: feedback on the Christmas dinner; information on organised trips to Chepstow races, Bournemouth autumn holiday, National AGM in Brighton and the Federation of Wales Conference in Builth Wells; details of the Link 'Black and White themed evening' in Pencoed RFC on March 10 and the possibility of commencing a monthly knitting group in aid of charity.

An appeal for three new committee members was made due to the recent retirement of members and the

Denman draw was won by lucky member Joan Rees.

The raffle prizes were won by Sandra Davidson, Renee Cureton and Kath Mephram.

Members perused the numerous Coychurch WI scrapbooks compiled over the decades of various events and activities, along with the special centenary edition compiled by member Elaine Edmunds; this being a wonderful reminder of the wonderful events organised and attended by members during the very special celebration year.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday each month at 7.30pm in the Williams Memorial Hall, Coychurch. For further information, contact Sandra Davidson on 01656 669232. Guests and prospective new members always welcome.

Janet James

## CHEQUES HAND-OVER BRIGHTENS THE GLOOM

**PORThCAWL Townswomen's Guild started 2016 on a sad note with the death of member Janet Eley, and the hospitalisation of several others.**

We have never known so much illness, and wish all our members better health this year. The dreary, wet weather doesn't help, but it can only get better and we look forward to a busy year of activities.

At our January meeting, we presented a cheque for £500 to Joseph Carter from the British Lung Foundation.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

**Porthcawl Farmers Market**  
THE monthly market will be at Awel y Mor Community Hall on Saturday, January 23.

There will be the usual range of fresh produce, organic meat and a new producer, Marie's Bakery will be attending from west Wales with a range of artisan bread; and her giant Chelsea buns are not to be missed. Limited parking is available at the hall.

### Green Room welcomes exciting Welsh poet

**ON Friday, January 29 at 8pm, an appearance by successful poet Samantha Wynn Rhydderch takes place at the Green Room, home of charity Sustainable Wales.**

Samantha, from Ceredigion, is the author of four collections of poetry, the most recent published by Picador.

Samantha's reading will be followed by an 'open mic', in which local writers are invited to perform. Everyone welcome; entrance £3.

## Charity needs dog walkers

**THE Cinnamon Trust, a national charity for the elderly and terminally ill and their pets, seek to keep owner and pet together for as long as possible, with the help of volunteers who assist when day-to-day care poses a problem.**

We are trying to arrange dog walking help for a resident of Bridgend, but don't have enough local volunteers. Can any of your readers help us?

Our aim is to relieve owners of any worry concerning the welfare of their pets, both during and after their own

lifetime, making us unique among charities. All volunteers help in the ways that are most appropriate to them.

Teams take it in turn to visit housebound owners, to take dogs for daily walks, volunteers foster pets as one of their family when owners face a spell in hospital. Contact 01736 758707 or email [sallycollins@cinnamon.org](mailto:sallycollins@cinnamon.org) or by emailing us at [volunteer@cinnamon.org](mailto:volunteer@cinnamon.org) g.uk.

Volunteers can also gain access to our volunteer page on our website or [www.cinnamon.org.uk](http://www.cinnamon.org.uk) or by emailing us at [volunteer@cinnamon.org](mailto:volunteer@cinnamon.org) g.uk.

Sally Collins, The Cinnamon Trust.

## Thanks for the Maesteg show!

**I T was with great pride that I was one of the thousand people who turned out to see the recent Maesteg parade with a dozen or more floats and jazz bands followed by Santa, great fireworks display after the lights were switched on and a disco free of charge in the town hall.**

I must offer my thanks to all the clubs, organisations and individuals who paraded through our town, including Huw Jenkins for organising and co-ordinating this parade; local traders for donating so freely to help with the festive lights; police; Llynfi Valley voluntary first aiders; the marshals; Roy Gareth and councillors who helped with the crowd barriers. Coun Philip W Jenkins, Maesteg.

## Speaker's talk on probation service history

**THE January meeting of Sker WI was held recently, and president Nora Williams welcomed 40 members and one visitor.**

There is a varied programme coming up with a charity pancake evening in February with 'Golden Oldies' providing some entertainment.

The birthday meal is in April when the branch will celebrate 50 years.

The speaker for the evening was Mrs Sylvia Scarf, who gave a talk on 'My Life'. She has lived in the Aberdare area for many years.

After going to Exeter University she became a residential social worker in Gloucestershire, looking after girls with special needs.

Sylvia eventually

moved back to South Wales and trained as a probation officer and told us many amusing stories of her experiences.

Over the years, she has travelled extensively and has also been involved with the Girl Guides, who celebrated 100 years to 2010.

After a break for tea and biscuits, the resolutions were discussed (there are eight in all).

It was agreed to put forward the resolution to 'ban the microbead' to the NFWI.

The next meeting is on February 10 at St David's Church Hall, Nottage, at 7pm when Mr Geoff Sherriff will give a talk on 'Porthcawl Photo Travel'.

Anyone wishing to join us is very welcome. AV

## DEAR READERS...

**Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL, or email: [gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk)**

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a telephone number: email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit letters.

## Charity needs readers' help

**WE are volunteers for the UK German Shepherd Rescue Angels, a charity based in Wales.**

The rescue is completely run by volunteers, including the founder. We are all based up and down the country and various parts of Wales and we constantly raise money throughout the year to fund the rescuing, feeding, fostering, kennel bills, rehabilitation, veterinary bills and day to day costs involved with helping German Shepherds.

The running of the rescue is solely reliant on

the goodwill of the general public.

At this present time we are struggling to raise sufficient funds to accept more dogs, a situation which we are not happy about. We are appealing to GEM readers to help us, normally we cope, but are struggling.

If you can help in anyway by fostering or adopting a German Shepherd or by donating anything at all please contact Eileen Bennett on 01446 794729 or Jo Eveleigh on 01646 651452.

If you want to find out more or to donate online please view our website [www.uk-gsr.co.uk](http://www.uk-gsr.co.uk)

Mike and Joanne Eveleigh, Kilgetty.

## Thank you for craft sessions

**I WOULD like to say a big thank you to the**

**Cornelly and District Development Trust, which throughout December offered craft sessions.**

Mum and I thoroughly enjoyed our hour there every week. There was a warm welcome from Adrian

Morgan and the staff, and it didn't matter how unskilled you were, all the creations were beautiful.

I am so proud that my reindeer has not been packed away until next Christmas; he stands in pride of place in my hallway!

The sessions are beginning again in February, and we will definitely be there. Annette Pritchard.

## HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL JANUARY 28)

**The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.**

| DATE    | Time  | Ht   | Time  | Ht  |
|---------|-------|------|-------|-----|
|         | AM    | M    | PM    | M   |
| 21 Thur | 03.59 | 8.6  | 16.31 | 8.8 |
| 22 Fri  | 04.58 | 9.1  | 17.28 | 9.2 |
| 23 Sat  | 05.51 | 9.5  | 18.16 | 9.6 |
| 24 Sun  | 06.37 | 9.8  | 18.58 | 9.7 |
| 25 Mon  | 07.14 | 9.9  | 19.37 | 9.9 |
| 26 Tues | 07.51 | 10.0 | 20.09 | 9.8 |
| 27 Wed  | 08.25 | 9.7  | 20.44 | 9.6 |
| 28 Thur | 08.59 | 9.5  | 21.16 | 9.3 |

**While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.**

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## Mayor made sure Pat did not miss out on her gift!

Mayor David with Pat.



THE Jenkin Henry Tea is an annual event organised by Porthcawl Town Council for 20 of the oldest inhabitants in Porthcawl who were born and reside in the town.

Mrs Pat Roberts (pictured) one of the recipients of the Jenkin Henry Fund, was invited as a guest to the recent Tea. However, she was unable to stay until the end to receive her

presentation gift, so the council arranged for the Mayor, Coun David Newton-Williams, to visit her at home so that she did not miss out on her gift.

If you were born in Porthcawl before or around 1930s and still reside in the town, you could be placed on the Town Council list to be invited to the annual Jenkin Henry Fund Tea.

Contact Porthcawl Town Council on 01656 782215 for details.

## PACT meetings

**PORHCRAWL West Central PACT at Trinity Church (room 5) on Tuesday, February 2 at 7pm.**

**Litchard, Pendre and Coity PACT at Litchard Mission on Thursday, February 4 at 4.30pm.**

**Rest Bay and Nottage PACT at Nottage Scout Hall on Tuesday, February 9 at 8pm.**

**Bryntirion, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr PACT at Laleston Gardening Club, Laleston on Thursday, February 11 at 7pm.**

**Newcastle PACT at Westward Community Centre on Monday, February 29 at 6.30pm.**

**Cefn Glas, Llangewydd and Brynhyfryd PACT at Westward Community Centre on Monday, February 29 at 6.30pm.**

**THE next OLDCASTLE PACT meeting will be held at Brynteg Lower School Library on Wednesday, January 27 at 6.30pm.**

**BRACKLA PACT at Brackla Junior School, Brackla Way, January 28 at 6.30pm.**

PUPILS at St Clare's School, Porthcawl were thrilled when Paul Canning from Wales Air Ambulance visited their special prep and senior school assemblies on Monday morning with WAA mascot Huw 'Hems' ('HEMS' stands for Helicopter Emergency Medical Service!).

Wales Air Ambulance, the national air ambulance charity, provides emergency air cover for those who face life-threatening illness or injuries. Their dedicated aircrews are on standby for everyone, anywhere in Wales.

Paul explained to the children that the Wales Air Ambulance motto is 'Saving time, saving lives'. The charity relies entirely on charitable donations to keep the helicopters in the air for Wales, so on Friday St Clare's pupils and staff will be fundraising by wearing red to school and holding a cake sale.

The special visit was organised by year-10 pupils who belong to the school branch of Rotary called Interact Club.

Liz Lougher, a senior teacher at St Clare's, said: "We are really proud of our Interact Club pupils. They develop very useful life skills in being active members of the local community."

To find out more about how you can support the charity, go to [www.walesairambulance.com/en/donate-to-wales-charity](http://www.walesairambulance.com/en/donate-to-wales-charity).

# LOCAL PUPILS WEAR RED TO SUPPORT AIR AMBULANCE

Wales Air Ambulance gets the thumbs-up from St Clare's.



## School attendance figures rise above the national level

THE latest school attendance figures for pupils in Bridgend county borough have risen for the second year in succession and are now above the Welsh averages for both primary and secondary school age groups, BCBC reported last week.

In 2013-14, primary school attendance was recorded as being 94.8 per cent while secondary school attendance was 93.9 per cent. The figures for 2014-15 had revealed that attendance had risen to 95.1 per cent at primary schools and 94.2 per cent at secondary schools across the county borough.

Both figures were higher than the Welsh averages of 94.9 per cent (primary school) and 93.8 per cent (secondary school).

Coun Huw David, BCBC's deputy leader, said: "Regular attendance is a crucial ingredient for ensuring success at school, so these latest stats are extremely encouraging and I'm looking forward to seeing how the figures develop further."

"A lot of work has been carried out by our education welfare officers and other family support staff to assist schools in identifying children who are demonstrating signs of poor attendance, and helping them to tackle and overcome any problems or obstacles."

"I'd like to thank teachers for their focus on school attendance, and also parents for being so supportive, and of course every pupil for appreciating the importance of regular school attendance."

Even if a child has a 90 per cent overall attendance rate by the time they leave school, they will still have missed out on an entire year of education. "As well as leaving

some children vulnerable to harm, poor attendance also increases the risk of leaving school without qualifications and becoming drawn into antisocial or criminal behaviour."

2014-15 was the first year since 2009-10 that school attendance figures for primary schools in Bridgend county borough were above the national average. Bridgend

county borough is in sixth place in Wales for primary school attendance and seventh for secondary school attendance.

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## SUNSET ON THE WELSH RIVIERA



Local photographer KEITH E MORGAN recently captured this dazzling sunset at Porthcawl.

## BUSINESS HALO!



Caroline Robertson (left) and Nathan Deere of Halo Leisure centre with Madeleine Moon.

THE Bridgend MP, Madeleine Moon, has congratulated Halo Leisure Centre in Bridgend, following their nomination as Social Enterprise for 2015 in the Bridgend Business Awards.

A special tour of the facilities was conducted by Nathan Deere and Caroline Robertson, customer advisors at the centre and the MP commented:

"I remember well the old Bridgend Recreation Centre and it was difficult to absorb how dramatic the change of the buildings and facilities has been.

"The cafe, reception area and library have transformed the entrance into a light and friendly meeting place for people, before or after their fitness activities."

## Council consults the public on housing needs

LOCAL residents are being invited to have their say on a new long-term vision for housing in Bridgend County Borough.

BCBC's new 'Local Housing Strategy' sets out the direction for housing over the next two years.

Coun Hywel Williams, cabinet member for communities, explained: "We are consulting with key stakeholders such as registered social landlords, housing developers, and relevant third sector and voluntary groups, and we're also inviting local

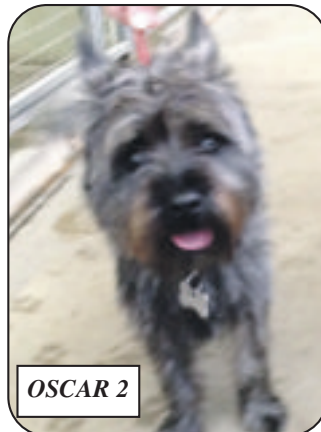
residents to have their say too. This new strategy outlines a number of proposed priorities to address local housing needs, such as making the best use of existing homes, helping vulnerable people stay safe and independent, working with partners to deliver the right type of new housing, and creating sustainable town centres through housing-led regeneration."

The public consultation runs until March 23; see details at [www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation).

## Three Oscars for PAWS!



OSCAR I



OSCAR 2



OSCAR 3

By a happy coincidence, Porthcawl Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) found it had three Oscars last week.

The charity which supports local pets and pet-owners, found that it was taking on for rehoming a third dog called Oscar.

The three pictured above are Oscar I, an older Labrador Malamud cross, Oscar II an 11-month-old Cairn terrier and Oscar III, a six-year-old Shih Tzu.

## Flu on the rise – warning

HEALTH officials are urging the public to do all they can to protect themselves and stop the spread of flu, as recent figures show cases of the illness are rising in Wales.

Visits to GPs, hospital admissions and admissions to intensive care units of confirmed cases of influenza (flu) have all increased across Wales in the last few weeks. The most recent figures (as of first week of January 2016) show that 51 patients have been confirmed to have flu since October 2015, when the first case was

diagnosed, and nine of these cases have been admitted to intensive care units in Wales.

Over 2,400 people have also visited their GP with flu like symptoms in Wales already this winter. All age-groups have been affected, although young children, the elderly and adults with chronic conditions are particularly vulnerable.

Public Health Wales is urging those in 'at risk' groups that it's not too late to get their free flu vaccine to protect themselves against the illness, and for all those with symptoms to take measures to prevent the spread of flu.

# CALL FOR PARKING CHARGES TO BE CUT

### WELSH

Conservatives are calling on the Bridgend County Borough Council to follow the lead of Neath Port Talbot Council and reduce car parking charges in Bridgend and Porthcawl.

After the NPT Council announced reductions in the cost of short stay parking of up to 20 per cent, Conservative Assembly candidate George Jabbour and regional AM Suzy Davies joined forces to urge BCBC to cut the cost of shopping in both towns.

George Jabbour said: "Charges in Neath and Port Talbot – two towns which directly compete with Bridgend and Porthcawl for trade – were reduced from this Monday.

"We need to give traders in both towns a chance to compete and draw in customers and also stem the loss of trade as residents of Bridgend borough go elsewhere to shop. We know that high parking charges are a deterrent to shoppers."

"BCBC already has inconsistencies in its parking policy as car parking remains free in Maesteg, for historic reasons; and there are also free car parks elsewhere in the borough."

"Only shoppers in Bridgend and Porthcawl have to pay to park and while the council argues that it cannot afford to introduce free parking, it should at least alter the pricing structure to give people an incentive to visit these two towns."

"Traders have already produced their own proposals to make parking progressively cheaper

to encourage people to stay longer and we are urging the council to cut overall charges by 20 per cent to match what NPT are doing."

Suzy Davies, regional AM for South Wales West, added: "In the age of the internet, shoppers not only buy things online but they can also check the level of parking charges in neighbouring towns."

"BCBC has said

that it is focusing on attracting locals to our towns, rather than worrying about bringing in people from further afield – but other councils are more ambitious than that and lower parking charges may have the effect of luring shoppers away from Bridgend and Porthcawl – a devastating double whammy for traders."

## Who wants to build what and where?

Mr Clive James – Ty Coed Castan, Tremains Court, Brackla – Reduce 1m later and 4m height to reduce windsail of tree.

Mr and Mrs P Morgan – Side of 77 West Road, Porthcawl – New detached dwelling.

Mrs Rachel Hopkins – 17 Ffordd Priordy, Sarn – Single storey extension and provision of ramped access to front entrance.

D Rees and Son – Land opposite Neuadd Domas, Llan Road, Llangynydd – New access to agricultural land.

Wagamama – Unit 94 and 95, Designer Outlet Village, Cefn Hirgoed – Installation of two mechanical condensing units to rear elevation of unit.

Serendipity Care & Support Ltd – Bellwave, 23 Mary Street, Porthcawl – Non-material amendment to P/15/139/FUL; change roof type to flat.

Mango Planning – Bridgend Retail Park, Bridgend – Two Class A3 (food and drink) units and associated works.

Stansgate Planning – Land west of Maesteg Road, Tondur – Further screening opinion 450 dwellings, Class B1 development, Highways works.

Mr P Ryall – Land at 38 Coychurch Road, Pencoed – Erection of two detached houses and shared driveway.

Mr S Thomas, Thomas, Parsons and DA – Land off Heol Eglwys, Bridgend – Discharge of conditions 9, 13 and 15 (P/15/159/FUL).

Tondur IV Ltd – Land south west of Maesteg Road, Tondur – Discharge of conditions 4, 5, 6, 7 and 14 of P/15/747/FUL.

Mr Kim Hughes – Ocean Farm, east of David Street, Blaengarw – Change of use from stables to dog kennels for commercial dog

breeding. BCBC Street Works – Public conveniences, John Street, Porthcawl – New gate at entrance to the open urinals which can be locked to secure the facilities. Mr M Evans – Bridge Stables, east of Minffrwd Road, Pencoed – Detached utility/dayroom for use in conjunction with gypsy pitch. Mr and Mrs Strange – 74 West Park Drive, Nottage – Demolition of existing garage, widen front dormer, new rear dormer, single storey side and rear extensions. GT Developments Ltd – Plot adjacent to 22 Queen Street, Brynmynyn – Two storey four-bedroom detached dwelling. Mr Rhys Garfield – 23 Rogers Lane, Laleston – Steel portal frame building with metal sheet roof and timber cladding. Mr David Boyer – Garden of 19 Priory Gardens, Bridgend – Erection of detached bungalow in garden, in lieu of previously approved garage. Mr Julian Rudd – 24 Shakespeare Avenue, Cefn Glas, Bridgend – Replacement of rear conservatory with lean-to kitchen extension. Cenin Renewables Ltd – Land at Parc Stormy, Stormy Down, Bridgend – One wind turbine (max tip height 125m and max hub height 75m with associated works). Mr J David – FMR Wildmill Filling Station, Quarella Road, Bridgend – Erection of two pairs of semi-detached houses. MGK Leisure Ltd – Rear of 46 John Street, Porthcawl – New three-storey building to accommodate two bedsites and two two-bed flats at rear of 46 John Street.

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# Hospital hands out 'Patient Choice' awards

**A HEALTHCARE support worker who goes the extra mile for the elderly people in his care scooped six nominations in this year's first-ever 'Patient Choice' awards at the Princess of Wales Hospital.**

Among the tributes paid to Lee Cook, who works on the hospital's ward 18, was that he "makes the day seem a little brighter".

Anne and David Williams said he made visits to see their father on the ward, which cares for frail elderly patients, many with dementia, more bearable.

"Lee impresses us on every level, his demeanour, attitude and friendly character set the tone for the professional way he goes about his work. It seems everyone on ward 18 – staff, visitors and patients – benefit from Lee's presence."

Their comments were highlighted at one of a series of special awards events which gave members of the public and senior ABMU health board officers a chance to celebrate outstanding contribution made by staff.

In their nominations, other patients described Lee as an asset to the hospital and said he "anticipates needs and patient comfort is obviously his top priority".

Lee, aged 29, said: "I am a bit surprised but really delighted to have been recognised. This has really encouraged me to continue towards my ambition to be a nurse."

He was presented with his certificate by

ABMU vice-chairman Ed Roberts who told guests that the Patient Choice awards were aimed at recognising and rewarding the high calibre of care provided by staff every day.

One of the most moving moments of the ceremony was when stroke patient Helen Rosewell was helped out of her wheelchair to accompany neuro-physiotherapist Anna Smith as she received her certificate.

Helen said that it had been Anna's patience and encouragement that had motivated her to gain her mobility and walk again.

"Anna kept me going and showed me there was light at the end of the tunnel."

Karyl Carter described Anna as a consummate professional and praised her for her ongoing support with Stroke Association's 'Step Out for Stroke' events.

She said: "I honestly don't think she is aware of the difference she has made to so many lives. Anna is a tremendous advert for ABMU and the Princess of Wales Hospital."

Consultant midwife Maggie Davies and midwife Jo Thomas were nominated by Cennin Axtell, who attended the ceremony with her baby daughter Lana Mae.

She said: "During my labour Maggie was mopping my brow and Jo was talking to me, both were keeping me positive and calm. They ensured between them that my birth was exactly what I wanted and needed."

Lloyd Griffiths, ward manager of the psychiatric intensive care unit was nominated by Elizabeth

Cash, who said: "He has turned round my life several times by his calm factual approach."

She also nominated the entire team that comes under Lloyd's leadership, saying: "They are not just the A Team, they are the Ace Team!"

Staff on ward 9 and the orthopaedic pre-assessment clinic were praised by Jacqueline Walker, who said it was their information and expertise which gave her the confidence to go forward and have a knee replacement operation.

Patient Malcolm Davies was among the patients who nominated the team at the Day Surgery Unit, led by Fran Hipkiss, while unit staff nurse Jaymi Williamson was singled out by David Lewis for her "lovely warm pleasant manner" as she helped care for him, taking into account his deafness and Parkinson's Disease.

Honouring Eric Dulay, deputy ward manager of ward 8, patient Colin Hills said: "This nurse is sent from above, he smiles from the start of his shift to the end and nothing is too much trouble."

The hard work of cleaners Lynette Sage, Debbie Jones and Marrie O'Sullivan didn't go unnoticed and earned them Patient Choice awards.

Mr Hills said that just hearing the way Marrie spoke to people cheered him up when he was in pain.

He also nominated Tara Iqbal, who was unable to attend the event, and said: "When I was in so much pain this nurse brought me back to earth. Nurses like Tara make a real difference to everyone."

ABMU Health Board introduced the awards to give patients the opportunity to say thanks to a member of staff or team who they feel has made a real difference or provided outstanding care.



Anna Smith (left) with patient Helen Rosewell who she has been helping to recover following a stroke.



Lee Cook, who received six nominations at the Patient Choice Awards, with Princess of Wales Hospital Service Director Jamie Marchant



ABMU vice-chairman Ed Roberts with cleaners Debbie Jones and Marrie O'Sullivan.



Maggie Davies, Cennin Axtell with Lana Mae and Jo Thomas.

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## Bridgend Soroptimists

**BRIDGEND Soroptimists are holding an evening of food and fun at the Heronston Hotel, Bridgend, on Wednesday, January 27 at 6.30pm.**

Buffet, Beetle Drive, silent auction and entertainment by 'Goodness Gracious Glee'. £10/head – pay at the door. Proceeds to Barnardo's.

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# SANDVILLE SUPPORTERS HAVE A BALL AT HI TIDE TWELFTH NIGHT!



1st. Prize – Couples – The Invisibles



1st. Prize – Groups – Toy Story



2nd. Prize – Groups – 101 Dalmatians



2nd. Prize – Couples - Noddy and Big ears



3rd. Prize – Groups – Sumo Wrestlers

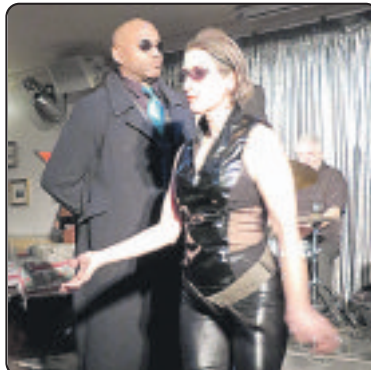


LEFT: 3rd. Prize – Couples – The Matrix.

ABOVE: The judges led by Sister Gwyneth Poacher.



The Sandville Scrubbers



**EVEN** though numbers were down this year, the Twelfth Night Fancy Dress Ball in aid of the Sandville went off in usual fine style at the Hi Tide.

Many thanks to Francesca (chef for the evening) and Geoffrey Dower for hosting the event as well as to Lonny Dee, master of ceremonies, and the 'Casual Affair' made up of Ian Griffin, Rob Gillespie and Rhiannon Thomas for providing the musical back drop, together with Robbie Owen doing his own thing as DJ for the evening.

The mainstay team of the evening, the 'Sandville Scrubbers', made up of Dave Jones, Marilyn and Arthur Beale, Dr Alison Jones, Judith Callaghan and Ann O'Keefe, not only did all the organising, but put on their usual bit of revelry at the end of the evening.

As usual, there was a good turn out of fancy dress with amazing ingenuity being shown by the participants. The judges had a hard time deciding the outcome but after an extension to give them more time to decide, they came up with the following results: First prize for the groups went to Owen Money with his team dressed with characters from Toy Story.

The runners-up prize was won by 101 Dalmatians with the Sumo Wrestlers taking third prize.

The Invisibles walked off with the first prize for couples, while Noddy and Big Years had to be content with beating Matrix to second place.

The males singles was won by the dentist while, believe it or not, Arthur Beale took second prize as

Report and photographs by  
**KEITH E MORGAN**

the cross-dressed stripper leaving the beach boy one step behind in third place.

First prize in the female singles was won by Brazil-Rio followed in second place by Boil in the Bag and Meals on Wheels driving into third position.

The judges were led by Sister Gwyneth Poacher, ably supported by her family made up of Alyson and Eifion Evans, Cathy and Neil Poacher and invited guest George Jabbour, Conservative Assembly Member candidate for Bridgend.

The 'Sandville Scrubbers' did their usual concluding performance with a sketch commemorating the Rugby World Cup, after which Arthur Beale took to the podium to present his closing address.

He expressed his sincere thanks to the Hi Tide for hosting the event and to all those who had turned out for the Fancy Dress Ball which was, of course, held every year on Twelfth Night to support the Sandville Self Help Centre at Tŷn Kenfig. He invited everyone to remain and enjoy the dancing to the music of the Casual Affair band and the singing of Rhiannon Thomas.

The raffle was drawn the following morning by Sister Gwyneth Poacher, with the first prize, the television set, being won by Marlene, a receptionist at the Sandville Self Help Centre.

**RIGHT:**  
The Raffle Draw –  
Sister Gwyneth  
Poacher MBE  
SRN.



The Twelfth Night organising team lead by Marilyn and Arthur Beal



# COMMUNITY LUNCH CLUB GIVEN FIVE STAR RATING!

**A LUNCH club that has been feeding the residents of Cornelly in Bridgend for 30 years, has been awarded the highest food hygiene rating by the Food Standards Agency.**

Volunteers who run the Cornelly Luncheon Club at the Cornelly Community Centre were "over the moon" when they heard the news.

To many people like club secretary Diane Spanswick the lunch club has been a lifeline or, as she puts it, 'the glue that binds our community'. In an association with the voluntary venture that has spanned over three decades Diane has witnessed the good times and the bad.

She said: "When I first became involved in what was then called the Over-60s Club, more than a hundred people would come to lunch in one sitting. Who could blame them? The food was good, the portions were generous and the price was even better. They were wonderful occasions. We had music and dancing and the Christmas party was something that everyone looked forward to.

"But as the years passed, our numbers dwindled, and sadly, a lot of friends and former club members are no longer with us.

"For a lot of older people isolation is a big

problem. A meal is always a good way of bringing people together for some convivial conversation and to feel connected. But more than that, a lot of families in Cornelly – an area of social deprivation – appreciate the fact that they can come to us for an affordable and nutritious meal."

She added: "We've had some great support from Bridgend Communities First and other partners such as the Big Lottery Fund, Kenfig Trust, Cornelly Community Council and of course our wonderful volunteers. We've also got a brand new kitchen which has given everyone a lift.

"Ten of our volunteers recently passed a food safety course run by Bridgend Communities First. I'm sure that this played a big part in the excellent food hygiene rating that we got from the Food Standards Agency.

"Although our numbers have fallen to about 40 people, I'm optimistic for the future which rests with some of our younger members, like Helen Davies, who embarked upon a career as a health care support worker after first coming here in 2011."

Helen, one of those who recently passed the food safety course, said: "I came along in 2011 with the intention of staying for a fortnight covering for someone who was on holiday.



"I'd never cooked before, but two weeks didn't seem too daunting. I loved working with the other volunteers and helping some of our elderly members. I soon realised that this is what I wanted to do for a living.

"I now work at Morriston Hospital and continue as a volunteer at the lunch club. I've made it my mission to get my friends and the younger generation of Cornelly involved in the club."

That community spirit is best summed up by the words of 90 year-old Mary Wilson, a regular at the luncheon club, who said: "I've lived in this area all my life, like my father before me who built the houses opposite this centre. We are Cornelly!"

**ABOVE:**  
*Real stars – Cornelly Luncheon Club volunteers are celebrating their top food hygiene rating.*

# The first ice brings casualties to A&E

**EMERGENCY doctors are warning people to take care in the cold weather after a big rise in injuries due to the icy conditions.**

There was a surge in attendances in the emergency departments at both Morriston and Princess of Wales hospitals.

In just two hours alone last Friday (January 15), 28 people arrived at Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend with ice-related injuries such as fractures, sprains and severe bruising.

A hospital spokeswoman described this as "exceptional".

She continued: "By 1pm today, the same number of patients had arrived in the department as were seen during the whole of the previous day.

Meanwhile, Morriston Hospital saw a 70 per cent increase in attendances due to ice-related incidents. These included 15 complex cases which required surgery or joint manipulation.

The Princess of Wales Hospital emergency consultant Sarah Spencer said: "Every year we see an increase in patients arriving with broken bones and other injuries from falling in the snow

and ice. "For some people this means having a wrist, arm or leg in a plaster cast for a few weeks.

"But for others it can be much more serious and very painful, requiring an operation and stay in hospital.

"Anyone going out in icy weather should take extra care and remember to wear warm clothes and non-slip shoes."

Morriston Hospital emergency consultant Andy Macnab added: "Many of those who attended have slipped on paths outside their home.

"Unless people have to go out first thing – such as for work – we would advise them to wait until midmorning when the worst of the ice will have thawed."

Meanwhile, doctors are advising residents to take steps to help keep themselves and their families safe and well.

Very cold weather can lead to an increase in conditions such as flu, hypothermia and heart attacks.

ABMU medical director Hamish Laing said: "The very young, old and those with existing chronic health conditions are particularly vulnerable to the effects of very cold weather.

"They should not go out unless they have to. Instead they should remain indoors but keep moving about as much as possible."

Very minor illnesses such as a cough or cold can be treated at home with basic over-the-counter medicines such as sore throat and cough remedies, pain relief, and a first aid kit.

Pharmacists and NHS Direct can provide further help and advice.

Dr Sean Young, a GP and ABMU's Director of Primary Care, said: "People should also keep warm and remember to have warm food and drinks regularly.

"If you have older neighbours or relatives don't forget to check on them to make sure they are safe, warm and well."

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## PUBLIC NOTICE BRITISH COAL COKING PLANTS DEADLINE - 24 APRIL 2016

The High Court has appointed Hugh James and Irwin Mitchell as lead solicitors in a group action for conditions associated with employment at coke works operated by British Coal. Specifically:

- respiratory disease
- temporary exacerbation of asthma
- lung cancer
- squamous cell skin cancer

A closing date for the group register has been set by the Court as 24 April 2016.

If you think you or a deceased family member may have been affected and worked in a coke fuel plant as a coke oven worker and wish to consider joining the group, please contact Hugh James or Irwin Mitchell by 24 February 2016 who will send you further information and assess whether you may be eligible to join the group and claim compensation.

If you instruct an alternative solicitor other than Hugh James or Irwin Mitchell, it is their responsibility to submit notice of any individual wishing to join the litigation to Hugh James and Irwin Mitchell.

**Call Hugh James or Irwin Mitchell:**  
**0808 271 4407**

Or visit:  
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# Mystery of what happened to Danilo has been solved... now grandson plans visit to Wales

A young Serbian man is hoping to travel in the footsteps of his grandfather to Wales – in the hope of visiting Pontypridd, where his grandfather spent the final years of his life.

In October 2014, The GEM told the story of Slobodan Erdeljan (25) who was appealing to the people of south Wales to help him find out what had happened to his long lost grandfather, who fled a civil conflict many years earlier.

Slobodan's grandfather, Danilo Ljubenko, had travelled to London and then on to Wales during the Second World War. When The GEM originally publicised Slobodan's appeal, he explained: "My grandfather escaped to London from Belgrade when World War Two started and after that the family lost contact

with him. The family received a letter, and the address on the envelope referred to a street in south Wales – Howell Street in Pontypridd."

Over the years, the family received infrequent letters from Pontypridd – and then they stopped. Slobodan suspected, but could not be certain, that his grandfather had died.

He appealed in The GEM for information and has received responses from people who knew his grandfather. One said that Mr Ljubenko was "a very gentle person, a lovely man" and known in Pontypridd as 'Danny'. Danilo died in 1985 from an industrial disease after working as a miner.

Slobodan thinks Danilo he had stayed in a hostel when he first arrived in south Wales and later lived as a tenant with Betty and Eric Jones at Howell Street, Cilfynydd, Pontypridd.

Danilo Ljubenko was born on September 12, 1924, in Orašje, which is in the north east of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Slobodan explained: "Back then – and until 1929 – it was called the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. Then the name was changed to Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Although Orašje is in today's Bosnia and Herzegovina, Danilo was Serb by nationality."

Slobodan said his grandfather's sudden

by TIM CHAPMAN

departure and the silence that followed it caused the family great anguish.

"My parents, but especially my grandmother, always wondered what happened to him. The thing is we've always been quite a modest family so we were never in a position to investigate or research what became of him, and where he might be. He escaped from

Belgrade at the time of the Second World War.

"The reason was possibly because during that period, in the former Yugoslavia, there were two sides: chetniks, who were for the king, and partisans, the communists.

"My grandfather was for the king, and since at the time it wasn't safe, he escaped, and they were doing many things that he did not want to be a part of.

"His departure was quite sudden. He was working in a small workshop, and my

grandmother was working in a factory. Danilo went in to say goodbye to my grandmother, hugged her, and didn't say much – just that he had to leave.

"Then he borrowed a horse and cart from his boss and headed for the border. When he got there he paid a guy to take it all the way back.

"I don't think he stayed too long in London. The oldest letter that we have was sent from Wales in 1960."

Slobodan is now planning to travel to south Wales and has set up a fundraising page, hoping people might help him. So far it has raised £70.

He said: "My grandmother, who is 90 years old, and hopes I can make the journey to Wales to visit his grave, and research a bit about his life there."

His fundraising link for people who would like to help is: <https://fundrazr.com/campaigns/d14k7a/ab/03/hq16>



ABOVE: Danilo Ljubenko.

## Poems and pints in Porthcawl...

POETRY fans have a chance to raise a glass with this cheery group of poets in Porthcawl!

Spokeswoman Dominique Speary said: "We have been meeting every month for quite a few years and would love to welcome some new faces."

"Thanks to the owners Andy and Sue, we meet in 'the backroom' of Porthcawl's well known hostelry, The Lorelei, at 36 Esplanade Avenue. Here we read out



favourite poems, or our own, and participate in a monthly poetry writing challenge. "The winner gets a bottle of wine and sets

the next challenge. There's no obligation of course, perhaps you'd just like to listen and enjoy the humour – we are a lively bunch – and

try one of the large selection of real ales from the bar. "We are a motley group with a variety of interests; you can

expect singing and sometimes a bit of ukulele (three of the group are also musicians), melodrama from the performers of the group, but also quiet and serious stuff. Something for everyone, and certainly not conforming to anyone's ideas of 'poets'!

"We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm; there's no money involved, although you do have to pay for your drinks!"



Slobodan hopes to pay his respects, on behalf of his family, at Mr Ljubenko's grave.

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# Sandville staff entertain volunteers to lunch

## REPORT AND PICTURES BY KEITH E MORGAN



*The obligatory group photo! Volunteers with Gwyneth and her team.*

IT has become a tradition that every year, Sister Gwyneth Poacher and her staff at the Sandville Self Help Centre, Tŷn Kenfig, entertain the army of volunteers who support the foundation to a lunch at the centre.

For this special occasion, the volunteers are treated like royalty! On arrival, they are welcomed with a glass of wine by Gary Banks, house manager, and then waited on by Gwyneth and her team, consisting of Margaret (Peggy) Parish, deputy

nursing director, together with trustee Ruth Foster and Gareth Griffiths, care manager.

Not only do they serve lunch to all the volunteers, but they do the washing up afterwards as well! The catering is always generously provided by Gareth Maund, host at the Prince of Wales, Kenfig.

There are 89 volunteers currently on the books at Sandville and 50 attended the lunch, being entertained by fellow volunteer, Jacqui Adams, with bingo followed by a raffle.

As with all volunteers' lunches, the afternoon ended with a group photograph.



*Jacqui Adams, entertainment organiser, with young winner of Irish bingo.*



*Sister Gwyneth Poacher on the far left with her team – Margaret (Peggy) Parish, deputy nursing director; Gareth Griffiths, care manager; Gary Banks, house manager, and Ruth Foster, trustee.*

## The Golden Lion roars to CAMRA 'Top Pub' title!

THE Golden Lion in Penarth, recently announced as CAMRA's 'Pub of the Year' award for the second year running, has been congratulated by regional Assembly Member Andrew RT Davies who leads the Welsh Conservatives.

The 'Campaign for Real Ale' Vale and Bridgend members voted it a "genuine pub, with layout and design that just makes it great to drink there".

Last month, Andrew RT Davies was given a tour of the pub by owner Jon Bassett and landlord Paul Harper and was thoroughly impressed.



*Andrew RT Davies is pictured in the Golden Lion with owner Jon Bassett.*

## Mini-Santas are praised for their festive spirit!



*Councillors and council officers visited Brynteg Comprehensive School to thank pupils for their annual 'Santa Appeal'.*

**KIND-HEARTED** pupils from Brynteg Comprehensive School in Bridgend have been praised for the outstanding impact of their annual 'Santa Appeal'.

Each year, pupils become mini-Santas by raising money to buy presents for other children across the county borough.

This year's total of £4,000 was used to buy presents for 127 local children and donated to Bridgend County Borough Council's social services department.

The council's deputy leader, Coun Huw David, Coun Hailey Townsend, the cabinet member for children's social services and equalities, and Laura Kinsey, the council's head of safeguarding and assessment, all visited the school to thank the children.

Coun Townsend said: "For 21 years, this school and its pupils have raised money for their 'Santa appeal' and we are so grateful. This demonstrates the caring and inclusive ethos of the school. Collectively, you all helped to spread some Christmas cheer to those who needed it."



*Before Christmas, a delivery van was loaded full of presents that had been donated by Brynteg Comprehensive School pupils.*

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# DANCE SCHOOL STEPS INTO INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT



ABOVE:  
The Sarah Burnell School of Dance has had a successful start to the new year.

**THE Sarah Burnell School of Dance** has had an extremely successful start to the year, with nearly 31 students have been selected to represent Team Wales at the Dance World Cup finals in Jersey in June.

This event is the biggest international dance competition in the world of its kind, with over 38 countries competing including

South Africa, Australia and China.

About 18,000 competitors enter at qualifying stages, with only 2,500 being selected for the actual Dance World Cup finals.

The dance school is based in the Pencoed area and regularly competes at national level. As this was its debut at international level it is a huge achievement. The dancers, aged between 10 – 19 have qualified in jazz, modern, tap,

contemporary and musical theatre genres as soloists – as part of duets, trios and also large groups.

The competition runs from June 25 – July 2 at the Regent Centre, St Helier and commences with an Olympic-style opening ceremony, where all the countries come together to celebrate.

Cerian Jordan (13) from Pencoed has been selected as the Welsh flag bearer for the parade, along with 12-year-old Welsh team mascot, Tom Herbert, from Porthcawl.

This talented group of young performers is keen to attract sponsors who are willing to support them in their quest to promote south Wales on the international dance scene.

If anyone is interested in helping the group to raise funds to aid their exciting venture, email sarahb79@hotmail.co.uk.

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## Airport appoints new commercial director

**RIGHT:** Spencer Birns, Cardiff Airport's new commercial director.

**CARDIFF Airport** has appointed **Spencer Birns**, as commercial director, to lead its aero and non-aeronautical business development.

It follows Debra Barber having been confirmed as managing director and chief operating officer.

Mr Birns joined the airport in 2006 to manage all airline and



tour operator relationships, and has played a vital role in the transformation of Wales' national airport, which in 2015 saw a 13

per cent increase in passenger numbers. Prior to working in Rhose, he spent three years at Manchester Airport working on commercial aviation development activities and worked for nine years in various roles at the My Travel Group in tour operations.

He is a specialist in airline and tour operator relationships with the remit of promoting Wales on the global stage.

He recently worked with key airline partners such as Flybe and Vueling on their growth at Cardiff Airport.

## Croeso! African Children's Choir welcomed to Wales

**RIGHT:** Jane Hutt AM with Special Nabisubi, Robinah and Emily Gronow, tour leader.

**AHEAD of their concert at St David's Hall, the African Children's Choir was welcomed to the National Assembly by Jane Hutt, AM for the Vale.**

"The choir sang brilliantly in St David's Hall, with 1,700 attending – including primary schools from Barry and boy drummers from Barry Comprehensive School," she reported.

"I invited them for lunch at the Pierhead building earlier in the day to welcome them to Wales and thanked Barry volunteer tour leader Emily Gronow, who has accompanied them on their world tour over the past year."

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## Drainage issue is identified

**LAST week, The GEM reported that local people had been concerned at the state of Cemetery Lane in Barry, which had a mini-stream and mud flowing down during the period of heavy rain.**

The GEM asked the Vale Council whether it was concerned about any overflow from the White Farm development.

Coun Gwyn John, cabinet member responsible for visible services, explained: "The majority of the surface water drainage from the White Farm development discharges into the Coldbrook watercourse to the north of the site as part of a drainage strategy previously agreed by the Vale of Glamorgan Council. This followed a consultation with

Natural Resources Wales and independent engineering consultants.

"Council officers have inspected Cemetery Lane this week and have found that the incomplete cycleway may be the cause of temporary drainage issues."

"Once completed, the water from the cycleway will drain into the surrounding grassed areas, where the grass is at present yet to establish itself."

"In addition to this, the existing highway drainage system on Merthyr Dyfan Lane is soon to be upgraded, as part of the Coldbrook Catchment Flood Risk Management Scheme, on which construction began earlier this month."

"Any further flooding in this area, particularly once the works are completed, should be reported to the council so it can be investigated

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# Tories and the Welsh Government in a ding-dong over the hospital waiting lists

A Conservative claim that the high numbers of people waiting for medical treatment in the Vale and Cardiff is a "national disgrace" has been countered by the Welsh Government, which revealed that the numbers of people being treated are going up and more funds are being pumped into the NHS.

A total of 82,555 are currently on the waiting list with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board. And nationally 438,957 people are on a waiting list of some description.

The Conservatives point out that when Carwyn Jones became Labour's First Minister in 2009, the figure stood at a little over 200,000.

Andrew RT Davies AM, Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, claimed Mr Jones was failing to acknowledge the problem:

"Labour's performance on waiting times remains a national disgrace and the people who are suffering are patients across the

by GEM  
REPORTER

Vale. Patients and their relatives will rightly question when things are going to improve and why Labour's First Minister refuses to acknowledge the problem.

"No-one should be waiting more than nine months for a hospital appointment and these delays can result in much poorer patient outcomes and harm."

He said the Labour Party had "starved frontline health services of one billion pounds and it's hardworking staff who've taken the brunt."

## TARGET TIME

However, a Welsh Government spokesman emphasised that the figures quoted did not tell the whole story – and part of it was that demands on the system were increasing.

"Despite record-breaking cuts to the Welsh budget by the UK Government, we are investing more than ever before in the Welsh NHS – we have given the NHS an extra £1.1bn of cash support over the last two years alone and next year the health and social services budget will

reach £7bn a year. Over the last five years, more and more people are being referred by GPs for treatment in the NHS. Despite this, the vast majority of people are seen within target time. This is not a 'national disgrace', but a testament to the hard work and dedication of our NHS staff in providing the highest quality care.

"There has been an improvement in the number of people waiting less than 26 weeks for the start of their treatment in November compared to October. There were also fewer people waiting more than 36 weeks to start treatment during this period.

"We expect health boards to continue improving performance and ensure everyone is treated in a timely manner, based on clinical need."

The spokesman added: "We have set up a clinician-led planned care programme to transform the way services are planned and delivered for key specialties."

"This will improve patient experience by making sure people are seen in the right setting, at the right time, and by the right health professional."

## GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA...

### 'The REAL dangers that women face'

ONCE again, we find councillors wasting time and resources – this time it's Coun Lis Burnett wasting CCTV operators' time trying to find out who committed such a heinous crime as to place a post-it note on her windscreen. (GEM report last week).

This ridiculous overreaction is matched only by the ridiculous defence put up by Couns Lis Burnett and Chris Elmore on

socialmedia. She claimed she felt at risk, risk of what? Glue smears on her windscreen? A paper cut perhaps?

Both claim that any member of the public can gain access to CCTV footage, but I find that hard to believe for such a frivolous reason as to find out who placed a Post-it note on her windscreen.

Given the amount of paperwork and supporting documents you need to provide to get a resident's parking permit, I imagine access would be very difficult and comes with a fee.

I asked Coun Chris

Elmore for details of whom to contact on the social media discussion, so I could view the footage and understand how in broad daylight, on a main shopping street, Coun Burnett could feel she was at risk, but he declined to further comment.

Coun Burnett went on to try and draw parallels to this incident with lone working and even the murder of Suzy Lamplugh, which I found disgusting. She might want to walk the streets of Barry alone at night, as many women do who work unsociable hours, which have been made even more

dangerous by the council's penny-pinching exercise of turning off our street lighting.

Many women have to pass streets where drug taking and drinking are rife and the police seemingly turn a blind eye to it. Just before Christmas, a group of girls had to run up the street away from youths brandishing knives, fighting in the lanes behind Holton Road.

A 999 call was placed, but nobody attended, so a neighbour and I waited in the street until the girls felt safe to leave.

The latest incident was once again nothing more than councillors trying to play silly political games, wasting time and resources. At a time when more and more services are being cut, our councillors should be working harder, not operating a "pay more, get less" scheme.

Kevin Watts,  
Barry.

### Rhoose History Society talk

THE Rhoose and District History Society invites everyone to a talk by Brian Davies on 'John Nixon and Cardiff's coal trade to France' on Friday, January 29 at 7.30pm in the rear hall of Rhoose Community Centre, Stewart Road.

Tickets £1 adults, 50p children (under 16), available on the door.

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# Petition calls for return of traffic to Bridgend

## 'Remove ring of steel around town centre'

LOCAL traders turned out in force for the hand-over of a petition calling on BCBC to allow traffic and parking back into part of Bridgend town centre.

It was organised by Tory regional AM Suzy Davies, supported by George Jabbour and Jamie Wallis, the party's Welsh Assembly

candidates for Bridgend and Ogmore and attracted more than 1,300 signatures.

It was backed by the newly-formed Bridgend Traders Forum and Mrs Davies claimed that businesses supported the move, which would allow people to drive into town via Queen Street and Dunraven Place and then exit up Market Street. Parking bays would be

provided along this route.

Mrs Davies said she was disappointed that no cabinet member was able to receive the petition as it was not council protocol. No councillors representing town centre wards were available and instead it was handed to the highways officer Tony Godsall.

Mrs Davies said: "Our proposals are very modest in scale. Caroline Street, Wyndham Street and Adare Street would remain pedestrianised but people, especially disabled drivers, would be able to drive into the rest of the town centre and have access to the banks, the post office, dentists, opticians and businesses located there."

"Traders claim that their businesses are

being killed by a lack of footfall. It is time that BCBC's disastrous flirtation with pedestrianisation, which the council has indulged in for two decades, came to an end, enabling people to have easier access to the centre.

"At the moment, there is a ring of steel around the town centre with rising bollards preventing access via Queen Street. I can understand some fears about gridlock in the town centre if traffic comes back in but we must remember that that used to happen when there was a through route via the Embassy Bridge. Once that was demolished and the cross valley link road was built, all the through traffic was removed. Only those motorists with

business in the town would go in."

George Jabbour added: "Traders in Bridgend tell me that lack of footfall is getting worse and that their businesses will die unless the town is opened back up to some traffic. We are urging the council to reverse the last bit of pedestrianisation put in place and see how this works. It may be that further parts of the town can be opened up to traffic later on if this is a success."

Jamie Wallis said: "Residents of Pencoeed often choose to shop in Talbot Green which is more accessible while many living in Ogmore and Garw find Maesteg, which has no pedestrianisation and offers free car parks, more convenient than Bridgend."

# Council says AM's petition handover was 'electioneering'

by PHILIP IRWIN

CONSERVATIVE Regional AM Suzy Davies says that Labour leaders on Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) have hidden behind protocol to avoid officially receiving her petition.

In fact, she claims that part of an email thread seen by a Conservative councillor confirms that reluctance.

Coun Ken Watts initially asked if the petition, which calls for traffic and parking to be allowed in part of the town centre, could be handed over to a member of the BCBC cabinet.

He was told by Mark Shephard, who is the director for communities, that the council's procedures were that petitions are handed in at the front desk "ordinarily."

However, as part of an e-mail thread, Coun Watts also received sight of an e-mail sent from council leader Mel Nott to Mark Shephard.

This said: "As you are aware, it is not customary for cabinet members to receive petitions, particularly this one, especially as we have attempted to highlight the issues and the procedures we are going through."

Suzy Davies said: "I am concerned that the Labour leader of the council said 'particularly this one' in relation to this petition. What does he mean by that?"

"This petition was

signed by 1,300 shoppers and traders and demonstrates the level of concern that exists in the town about this issue.

"I am not quite sure why my particular petition is a problem. I hope he is not implying that an elected regional AM has no business organising a petition and representing the concerns of her constituents."

Mrs Davies added that when she attempted to hand the petition in at the front counter, staff told her they did not accept petitions over the counter.

She said: "If this was the usual protocol, then the cabinet had failed to communicate this with their own staff. However, they were most helpful and arranged for a senior officer to receive it instead."

Coun Charles Smith, cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, said: "The petition handover was a clear piece of electioneering

and it was entirely appropriate for a senior officer to not only receive the petition, but to also decline a request to be photographed alongside the regional AM, and the candidates in the forthcoming assembly elections who accompanied her.

"The petition organised by the regional AM follows in the footsteps of a cross-ward referral from councillors who cover the Bridgend town centre area, and who also declined to be involved with the handover stunt."

"As a result of the councillors' referral, BCBC is already looking into options that could open up some of the town centre to traffic, and an independent risk assessment for the proposals is currently under way."

"So in effect, this petition has been delivered by candidates in advance of an assembly election on something that has already been proposed by local councillors, and on which the council is already working."

# Community groups can attend evening on support networks

COMMUNITY groups and organisations interested in running local sports pavilions and community centres, are invited to two events organised by BCBC's reach Rural Development team.

The information evenings are being held to provide more details about 'Community Asset Transfers' and help groups to join new networks which could support the management of community facilities, a spokesman explained.

On January 26, a drop-in session will be held at Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen between 5pm and 7pm.

On February 2 a second session will be held at Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen for groups that currently run, or are keen to find out more about, operating community centres - between 5pm and 7pm.

A range of organisations will be on hand at both events to provide guidance and advice, as well as the council's community asset transfer officer.

# Meetings will be live on the web

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Council Leader Mel Nott said: "Over the next three years, we will be webcasting a total of 150 hours' worth of meetings that we feel will have the most public interest."

"Agendas and minutes from these meetings are already made available each time on our website, but we hope that residents will find the webcasts a useful way of understanding the democratic process behind a range of council decisions, such as planning outcomes."

"The webcasts will make us even more transparent and enable our communities to become more engaged in local democracy."

The viewing figures for each webcast will be monitored and reviewed to see which meetings are the most in-demand by residents.

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# Ideas behind Harbourside project

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 1)

The idea for the project began when two local groups, the Welsh Surfing Federation and Porthcawl Sea Cadets, started talking about the need for new premises.

The surfers had no home in Porthcawl – or in Wales – but as the organisation has grown, the need for a permanent base has increased.

The Sea Cadets have an old building which acts as a meeting place for the moment on the harbourside. They will also use the maritime centre for a base, and their existing building will be knocked down. A crane to lift boats in and out of the harbour will take its place.

The two organisations were joined by a group, all born and bred in Porthcawl, and Porthcawl Harbourside CIC was born.

They harnessed their skills and knowledge of the town and its maritime ties by designing and developing new ideas for the area surrounding the new marina and the nearby RNLI building.

Local architect Stuart Bentley is a member of the team and he has been responsible for the design of the building.

As the team has developed ideas for the building, it has been his job to fit them all in. As with any major project, there have been adjustments since the project was launched some years ago, but the main elements have stayed constant.

One recent change that caused an element of confusion was the inclusion of a swimming pool. The lack of a large public swimming pool is a long-debated topic in Porthcawl.

However, the proposed unit, at around 18 metres, was never intended to fill that gap.

Stuart Bentley explained: "We have been able to put aside space for a wellbeing centre, with gym facilities, sauna, oxygen tanks, physio and hydrotherapy.

"It would be ideal for people recuperating from injury, possibly for GO referrals, and we also think that the facilities could be made available to local hotels as an extra for their guests.

"The pool is part of this complex, and was never intended to be a family leisure pool."

Another floor in the centre will offer conference space for up to 100 people, and it will be of a flexible design for many other uses as well. In fact, this will be the area where the Sea Cadets will meet of an evening.



There will be a 'Centre for Surfing Excellence' – headquarters for the National Governing Body of Surfing in Wales and featuring a Welsh Surf Museum.

Craig Burrows, the chairman of Welsh Surfing Federation, said: "The proposed facilities will play a major role in the realisation of our vision of Welsh surfing in Wales, Europe and on the world stage.

"Having recently been recognised by the International Surfing Association as an independent surfing nation, the proposed building establishes our presence at the highest level."

To continue the surfing theme, a 'Waverider' surfing machine is still included in the design.

Another section of the maritime centre has been allocated for a 'Coastal Life Centre', concentrating on the local ecological and environmental culture and history.

Claire Godfrey has already started work on this aspect of the centre, running rock pool investigation days and also working with the local coast watch on a 'porpoise spotting' exercise.

She told THE GEM: "There are huge educational opportunities for this. Local schools will be encouraged to visit, and we are putting a partnership in place with Swansea University that will focus on community involvement and education."

Regular educational talks for local people are already taking place, and are proving very popular, and special activities are being planned for Easter.

The Coastal Life Centre is intended to be a significant visitor attraction, and it is still planned to include an aquarium.

'The Gallery' will occupy another area of the building, and this is intended as an "innovative display venue for the use of local artists, historical groups and design and technology creative



industries".

Moving outside the building for a moment, a performance space, called 'The Venue', will be created outside, as a canopy-covered amphitheatre that can put on all weather outdoor performances, and also be used as a cinema.

Opening out onto the performance space will be 'Y Gali (The Galley)' – a quality day time café which will convert in the evening into a quality bistro.

At the moment, it is intended to run this in partnership with Bridgend College, giving catering students valuable experience of working in their chosen industry.

Moving back into the maritime centre, a number of 'business pods' will be available. These will be office spaces that could be used by charities and community groups.

Business Pod tenants will have shared services with support such as day-to-day administration and reception services.

Still included are a range of accommodation units, aimed at walkers, cyclists, surfers or school parties who are visiting or passing through Porthcawl.

Now called 'Y Cabanau' – the four star cabins

will offer high quality mixed accommodation linked to Harbourside events and venue hire.

Stuart Bentley said: "These cabins will offer surf suit drying rooms and secure cycle storage to make them attractive to those two sets of enthusiasts."

There will be three towers at the top of the harbour building. One will house a public viewing gallery with a camera obscura attraction, while one will be a home to the Coastguard, who will move there from their current Lock's Lane base, and for Coast Watch volunteers.

Finally, the third tower offers space for a 'flagship restaurant' on the highest level of the building, offering spectacular views across the Bristol Channel and giving the restaurateur who takes up the space a chance to offer something very special.

This weekend's exhibition is intended as a consultation exercise, offering the public a further chance to say what they think about the project's aims.

Stuart Bentley said: "We do see this as a catalyst for future growth. This is all about Porthcawl people doing something for the town."

Mike Clarke added: "This has been a real rollercoaster of a ride since we began back in 2012. It is a huge project for the third sector to undertake."

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# Your chance to share all your community news

**Aberkenfig WI**  
EUNICE Williams, president, welcomed Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute members to the first meeting of the new year, when apologies for absence were received from Betty Samuel and Joanne Davies.

'Happy Birthday' was sung to Margaret Crocker; minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed; the Glamorgan Federation newsletter perused and some items noted.

The National Federation of Women's Institutes AGM will be in Brighton in June, when Aberkenfig's delegate will be Hilary Crocombe.

There was no speaker this month, as there is always too much business to be dealt with. There were several interesting items in the post for future events, including a guided walk of Brecon town in April and a race day at Chepstow in July.

The Institute is also planning a late Christmas lunch at the Caefatri in February, a fish and chip lunch in March and there will be

a sales table at the meeting on February 10.

The raffle was won by Hilary Crocombe and Dee Melton, and the winner of the competition was Irene Burgess.

The next meeting of the branch will be on February 10 when members will be entertained by the Ogmore Valley Male Voice Choir; the competition will be for a 'tin' and there will be a raffle.

Aberkenfig and District WI meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig. New members and visitors are always sure of a warm welcome.

For more information, contact Dilys on 01656 725399, visit [www.cobwebs.com](http://www.cobwebs.com), or [www.facebook.com/Aberkenfigwomensinstitute](http://www.facebook.com/Aberkenfigwomensinstitute).

**Children's choir**  
**MAESTEG**  
Children's Choir was busy entertaining the public before Christmas; it was involved in the Maesteg carol concert in the town hall; it sang in the Christmas tree festival at St David's Church, and also performed on the

Glanfa stage at the Wales Millennium Centre.

The choir recently produced a CD titled 'Thank You For The Music', which is now available for sale.

It rehearses in the crypt at St Michael's church, Maesteg on Saturdays from 10am to 12pm.

Musical director Enid-Sian Hughes welcomes prospective choristers. Call Sian on 01656 723385 or e-mail [enid-sian@happynote.co.uk](mailto:enid-sian@happynote.co.uk).

**Concert treat**  
I HAD the pleasure of being at the annual concert in Maesteg town hall of Cŵr Meibion Maesteg a'r Cylch (Maesteg and District male voice choir) last Saturday night.

It was a lively and enjoyable evening with a full audience.

Compère Gary Owen, of BBC Radio Cymru, ensured that the concert ran smoothly.

The choir under its musical director, Rhian Hughes, with pianist Ryan Wood, has a broad repertoire and was on top form, with modern and earlier period songs in Welsh and English.

One of its guest soloists, tenor Richard Allen, enthralled the audience, both with his

## NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL  
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ  
TEL: 01656 725399  
email: [tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk)



singing and witty repartee.

Another impressive performer was soprano Charlotte Ellett, who sang a duet with Richard Allen as they walked up the central aisle to the rear of the hall; neither had a microphone and yet you heard every word.

Guest conductor Dr Haydn James conducted the choir in the great Welsh song 'Gwahoddiad' and had the audience and choir singing 'Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer' (commonly known as 'Bread of Heaven').

Rhian Hughes and Ryan Wood amazed the audience by playing a duet from West End shows on the same piano. The concert ended with the whole audience singing the Welsh national anthem.

The choir rehearses at Maesteg RFC on Thursdays from 7pm - 9pm, and new members are welcome.

## Reserve appeal

The Welsh Wildlife Trust's nature reserve at Parc Slip, Tondur is looking for volunteers to improve the habitat for the lapwing, a bird which is in serious decline in the UK.

It is intended to hold practical habitat management sessions at the reserve, to encourage these birds to nest in a friendlier environment.

New volunteers should meet in the coffee shop at the visitor centre on Fridays at 10am and it is hoped they will be available to help at weekly sessions from 10am to 12.30pm.

Parc Slip will also be hosting a wood carving craft weekend on January 23 - 24 where demonstrations will take place to celebrate St Dwynwen's Day. Everyone is welcome:

learn the art of making love spoons! For more details, phone Lorna on 01656 724100.

**Cookery class BRIDGEND**  
Communities First is offering free healthy cooking sessions with Richard Shaw from *Cooking Together* at Caerau Social Centre on January 22 and 29, from 10am - 12pm.

It is also holding a course at Sarn Lifelong Learning Centre on January 29 from 9.15am - 3.30pm, at which participants can gain qualifications in preparing, storing and re-heating food safely, and how to avoid common hazards.

It is also offering a free course to deal with children's accidents at Betws Life Centre on January 27 from 9.15am to 3.30pm. For more information phone Jeremy Dimond on 01656 643518 or 07815 527124.

**School attendance**  
**TONDU Primary School's Mrs Susan Pilcher advises parents that the Udd Eisteddfod will be coming to Bridgend, and invites all children to wear green, red and white tomorrow (Friday, January 22).**

The following pupils achieved 100 per cent attendance during the autumn term:

Miss Morgan's class  
Cynffig: Ffion Barry, Dewi Galtry, Logan Kinsman, Jensen Matthews, Isabelle Thomas, Martin Wang, Evie Williams.

Mrs Woolls' class  
Ewenni: Morgan Collier, Imogen Lewis, Dylan Merrett, William Ockwell-Bowen, Hayden Painter, Jack Rose, Jack Wang.

Mrs Pugh's class  
Garw: Kaylen Alston, Iwan Baker, Llewellyn Evans, Maddie Flower, George Jarman-Davies, Scott Paul, Isaac Reardon, Elaine Wang.

Mr Lewis' class  
Llynfi: Noah Barry.

Miss Davies' class  
Ogwr: Josie Chan, Daisy Foley, Iestyn Galtry, Rhydian Galtry, Chase Johnstone, Gaele Jones, Maddie Jones, Imogen Merrett, Joshua Popham.

Mrs Lucas class

Rhondda: Carwyn Barry, Sophie Featham, Logan Hubbard, Ioan Rhys Smitheram, Fabian Tapner, Ben Thomas, Daniel Williams.

Mrs Russell's class  
Taf: Sasha Flower, Levi Harry, Brandon Hearse, Sam Thomas.

Mrs James' class  
Tawe: Jerry Chan, Seren Dare, Melina Dewson, Dylan Evans, Evie Higgins, Jorja Higgins, Frazer Marshall, Tia Ockwell, Luka Wood.

Miss Mahoney's class  
Usk: George Barry, Joshua Collier, Dylan Griffiths, Olivia Herbert, Tialeon Popham, Amelia Webb, Olivia Webb, Iestyn Williamson.

**Noteworthy**  
**IN Maesteg town hall on Saturday, January 30 at 7pm**  
**Noteworthy mixed voice choir is in a joint enterprise with another exciting choir, Only Boys Aboard.**

There is a guest soloist, Katy Trehanne, star of London's West End smash hit *Phantom of the Opera*.

## RAISING THE ROOF TO UPGRADE CONSERVATORIES

Once the preserve of the wealthy who wanted to cultivate exotic species of flora, today it's estimated that around one in five UK homes have a conservatory.

Offering additional light, with relatively fast construction times, up to 200,000 conservatories were built per year during the height of their popularity.

However, some homeowners found that the full glare of the sun in summer and chilly temperatures in winter made older conservatories uncomfortable, with the only solution being a costly rebuild.

The good news is that building technology has moved on and, as with glazing, there are some thermally efficient roof options now on the market that can be added to the existing conservatory structure.

### 'Activ' Glass roof

A straightforward upgrade for those who want to keep an uninterrupted view of the blue skies up above is to opt for a modern, low emissivity (low-e) 'Activ', energy efficient glass roof.

Helping to reduce the variations in temperature associated with older, traditional glass or polycarbonate roofs, 'Activ' low-e glass helps cut solar glare, protect furniture from fading and keep heat in during the winter months.

For even greater insulation there are now two solid roof options that can be retrofitted to an existing conservatory, without the need for significant structural modifications.

### Tiled roof

The new, lightweight, tiled roof takes its design cues from the slates and tiles found on most UK houses. As a result it works well on most properties and comes in a range of finishes to match any existing architecture.

Created using aluminium panels, with Kingspan insulation, these roofs can achieve a u value of just 0.18, similar to that of a normally constructed, modern roof.

With this option, the interior of the conservatory



can include a plastered ceiling with down-lighters or even roof windows to keep the view of the stars.

### LivingRoof

For a more contemporary feel, there is a third option called the LivingRoof. This modern roof combines the sleek lines of a glass roof with the shade and thermal efficiency of a solid conservatory roof to create something that looks and feels very contemporary.

With the LivingRoof, entire panels can be replaced with glass to create a hybrid solid and glass roof meaning the homeowner can choose where to have shaded areas and where to have more light.

Once again there is the option to plaster the interior ceiling and add down-lighters. The LivingRoof also comes with the option of adding orangery detailing to enhance the interior and exterior styling of the conservatory.

Windows, Doors, Fascia and Soffit as well as Conservatories, Extensions and Orangeries

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# Out & About with The GEM

## DiCaprio pushes himself to the limit in brutally beautiful revenge thriller

**LEONARDO DICAPRIO** may be hoping for fifth time lucky at next month's Academy Awards.

Having been the bridesmaid four times previously in acting categories, DiCaprio's fifth nomination has come for his lead role in Alejandro G Inarritu's *The Revenant*, where he plays Hugh Glass, a frontiersman on an expedition who is savagely mauled by a bear.

Tasked by Captain Henry (Domhnall Gleeson) to look after Glass, Fitzgerald (Tom Hardy) and Bridger (Will Poulter) leave Glass for dead in order to survive, with the former killing Glass' son; but Glass is soon on their trail, determined to take revenge for his child...

Most filmmakers having been critically lauded (and indeed Oscar-winning) as Alejandro G Inarritu was for last year's sublime *Birdman* could easily have relaxed, put their feet up and basked in the glow of their achievements.

That Inarritu has returned a year later is testament enough to his work ethic; that he has returned with something as brutally beautiful as *The Revenant* is testament to his hunger and ability as a director, the film a gorgeous and sumptuous, yet visceral, viewing experience that envelopes you as you watch.

The film was shot over nine months using only natural light, an attention to detail that only enriches the film, the sense of location and scale constantly with you. It strikes an incredibly balanced line between capturing the beauty of nature but also the harshness of the environment these men are in.

Opening with a gorgeous slow tracking shot through a forest, Inarritu soon flips into the brutality of battle as native Americans besiege the men's camp, a violent, yet incredible shot set-piece that features a single shot that veers from victim to victim, and ends with a pan that sees an arrow fly past the screen.

It's a bravura sequence, technically outstanding yet also immersive, and sets the tone for the rest of the film, Inarritu creating something tangible, gorgeous yet dangerous, with small notes like blood splatter hitting the lens, breath fogging up the lens, and even the camera being brushed away by the actors, all lending to the mesmeric nature of the film.

If the story (incredibly based in reality) has all the hallmarks of a revenge thriller, then its granted something deeper and more meaningful by the cast, in particular Leonardo DiCaprio, who pushes himself to the limits as Glass.

If being savaged by a bear (and savaged is putting it mildly as the film unflinchingly



by  
**GARETH JAMIESON**

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shows), Glass truly goes through it, and that's before being left for dead and embarking on a journey of revenge. It's a role that an actor like DiCaprio sinks his teeth into and gives it everything he has, and you cannot fault the effort, determination and grit in a performance that asks much of him physically and mentally – and he delivers it incredibly well.

Tom Hardy's Fitzgerald is brought to life well by the actor, but the performance and the character feel a little one-note, with little depth afforded to a straightforward villain. Will Poulter brings a satisfying degree of light and shade to the morally conflicted Bridger, while Domhnall Gleeson is quietly solid as the

captain of the expedition.

At 156 minutes it's certainly not an easy watch; aside from the bursts of corporeal violence, the film has a languid pace that brings to mind the work of Terrence Malick, and certainly feels its legs in a final stretch that shifts gears from something ethereal to the more mundane.

Yet, *The Revenant* is an incredible achievement from both director and cast – it's a revenge film but with a difference, that difference being the sumptuous direction of Inarritu and DiCaprio's committed turn.

**VERDICT:** Poetically beautiful, unflinchingly brutal, *The Revenant* is a superb film, brought vividly to life by Alejandro G Inarritu's visual storytelling and Leonardo DiCaprio's gutsy and powerful performance. Slowly-paced, but achingly told, *The Revenant* is a sublime piece of filmmaking. *Essential viewing.*

**SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED:** *The New World* (2005), *Babel* (2006).

**AMERICAN author Lorin Morgan-Richards' new book *Welsh In The Old West* captures the enduring hardships and legendary accomplishments of over 30 known and lesser-known emigrants from Wales and their Welsh descendants, whose lives helped shape the American West.**

A unique collection of biographical stories starts in Wales with Welsh cattle drovers, who were precursors of American cowboys.

*Welsh In The Old West* is fully illustrated by artists from Wales and the US, depicting pioneers, outlaws, inventors, military leaders, miners and more. A special foreword by Jude Johnson, author of *Cactus Cymry* and an authority on Welsh in the southwest United States, puts it all in context.

"In curating the artwork I believed it was important to establish a contemporary bridge to paint the past" – Lorin Morgan-Richards. Kerry Evans'

painting of John Perrett on the cover captures his subject's determination. Perrett, of Welsh descent, spent his entire life as a miner in Deadwood, South Dakota, and was said to have found the world's largest gold nugget.

The legendary Jesse James, whose family originated from Pembrokeshire, west Wales, had the charisma to become the Robin Hood of the West, but his lawless career cost him his life.

Annie Ellis of Denbighshire, north Wales, was abandoned on the streets of Kansas City at the age of 13. Having contended with outlaws in Dodge City, she built her own boarding house that saw the likes of Wyatt Earp, Wild Bill Hickock and others, and gained significant wealth in later life.

Welsh emigrants and descendants made important contributions during American expansion, including Oliver Evans' steam engine and early design of the automobile; John Plumbe Jr of Castle Caereinion, Powys, was the first nationally-known professional photographer and single-handedly launched the idea of

brand recognition.

Wells Fargo established the first messenger service west of Buffalo (Fargo was of Welsh descent) and David Robert Evans of Aberystwyth, helped found the Rodeo Association of America.

"While the Welsh American story is still being written, I hope my readers find this unique collection valuable in understanding what our ancestors have overcome and built for the greater society. It wasn't always a pretty picture and we struggle today even in our own communities to partner and foster interest in who we are as a people, not as Americans, but as Welsh Americans, and where we have come from and how our past helps define who we are today.

"The fountain of youth resides in our memory. You will never outlive your shadow," says the author.

Lorin Morgan-Richards, author, poet and illustrator, known mostly for his children's books, is also publisher of Celtic Family Magazine: an internationally distributed print and digital publication on Celtic history and culture. He also served as executive director of the Los Angeles St David's Day Festival.

*Welsh In The Old West* is available through Barnes & Noble online, Amazon, and through the publisher's website: [www.aravenabovestore.com](http://www.aravenabovestore.com).

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**Quiz night in Dinas Powys**  
**DINAS Powys Voluntary Concern invites you to a fun quiz night with Paul Marks, at 7.30pm on Friday, February 26 at the parish hall, Dinas Powys.**

Doors will open at 7pm. Refreshments and licensed bar; £6 per person, maximum six per team.

Application forms from the DPVC office (02920 513700) or email: [info@dpvc.org.uk](mailto:info@dpvc.org.uk) and the parish hall on Britway Road.

Come along for a great evening out!

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Simone 02920 599001

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The Ship (Private Entrance), Harbour Road, Barry  
Simone 02920 599001

**Mondays 5.30pm**  
Celtic Way Community Centre, Rhose  
Helen 01446 750738/07968 355119

**Mondays 5.30pm and 7.30pm**  
Tabernacle Church Kings Square, Barry  
Lorraine 01446 407002

**Mondays 5.30pm and 7.30pm**  
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visit the website for details [slimmingworld.co.uk](http://slimmingworld.co.uk)  
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Helen 01446 750738/07968 355119

**Tuesdays 5.30pm**  
Holy Trinity Presbyterian, Church Hall, Trinity Street, Barry  
Joanne 01446 404897

**Tuesdays 6.30pm**  
The Old School, South Road, Sully CF64 5TG  
Nicola - 01446 740394

**Wednesdays 6.00pm**  
Cadoxton Methodist Church, Church Road, Barry  
Joanne 01446 404897

**Wednesdays 4.45pm and 6.45pm**  
St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-Y-Castell, Barry  
Annmarie 01446 736534

**Wednesday 3.30pm, 5.30pm, and 7.30pm**  
Bridgend Deaf Club, Coychurch Road, Bridgend  
Helen - 01656 720963

**Thursdays 10.15am**  
St Helen's Church Hall, Wyndham Street, Barry  
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Nicola - 01446 740394

**Thursdays 5.30pm**  
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## Cowbridge Art Society

ON Thursday, January 21, the society welcomes Pontypridd artist and teacher Alison Fennell, who will be giving a watercolour demonstration [www.etsy.com/shop/eastwitching](http://www.etsy.com/shop/eastwitching)

On January 28, Penarth artist Shirley-Ann Owen ([www.shirleyanneowenartist.com](http://www.shirleyanneowenartist.com)) will demonstrate working methods in ink and acrylic.

CAS welcomes artists of any ability and also non-artists interested in various art techniques or illustrated lectures on related topics.

It meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge, 7pm - 9pm. Occasional visitors and new members are

## NEWS IN BRIEF

welcome. For details of the society's activities see [www.cowbridgeartsociety.com](http://www.cowbridgeartsociety.com)

**Gala concert**  
MUSIC in the Vale Young Musician competition winners will perform on Sunday, January 24, at 2pm in All Saints Church, Victoria Square, Penarth.

Tickets £5 (£3 concessions) at the door or from [www.musicinthevale.org.uk/concert.html](http://www.musicinthevale.org.uk/concert.html).

**Carers' Café**  
CAREERS in Cardiff and the Vale needing advice and support are being encouraged to attend the Marie Curie Carers' Café.

Held twice a month at

the Marie Curie Cardiff and the Vale Hospice in Penarth, the Carers' Café provides an environment for carers to meet and discuss their caring role over a cake and a cuppa.

The next Carers' Cafés will take place between 2pm and 4pm on Tuesday, January 26 and Tuesday, February 2; all are welcome.

For more information, contact Sarah Johnson on 02920 426023 or email [sarah.johnson@mariecurie.org.uk](mailto:sarah.johnson@mariecurie.org.uk).

**Floral society**  
THE AGM of the Barry Floral Society will take place at St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry at 2.15pm on Tuesday, January 26. New members welcome.

## Credit Union advice

ARE you living in the Vale, and looking for flexible saving accounts, affordable low interest loans, or loans for electrical and white goods?

In partnership with Co-op Electrical, Age Connects Cardiff and Vale is holding a session at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, January 26, from 10am to 12 noon. A

An adviser from Cardiff and Vale Credit Union will be present to answer questions about the scheme.

No appointment is necessary; contact 01446 732384 for further information.

## Local stylist Lauren sets her sights on Miss Wales

LOCAL hairdresser, Lauren England, is hoping to make the cut - as a finalist in the Miss Wales competition on April 16.

For Lauren, a senior stylist at Hair Crew at Ewenny, the next few months promise to be a "rollercoaster ride".

As part of her journey to the finals, Lauren will be undertaking many activities and raising money for the charity Beauty with Purpose, which supports children worldwide.

Her preparation is well underway: "I am really excited to be a finalist in Miss Wales. I can't believe that the finals are now only a few months away. There is a lot to do and it's going to be a busy time from now up until the finals," she said.

Hair Crew are sponsoring Lauren in the competition: "I am thrilled that Hair Crew are supporting me in so many ways and that I'm able to help also by talking about how fabulous the salon in Ewenny is. My clients are really excited and have been so supportive and encouraging," Lauren added.

Events are being held in the salon over the coming months to support Lauren and her charity, so watch this space for further information.



Miss Wales finalist Lauren England.

## HAIR CREW ARE A CUT ABOVE THE REST!

IT'S been four months since Hair Crew launched their business in Ewenny ... time certainly does fly when you're having fun!

It's been a busy time for this new hair and beauty salon as they make their mark in the Vale.

They have quickly gained a reputation for the quality of work, range of services and an outstanding team and the five-star reviews on Facebook page prove the point.

The team at Hair Crew have many years' experience in the hair and beauty industry, with a loyal and growing client base from across the Vale, Bridgend and Cardiff.

Through a tailored and individual consultation, they ensure that each client receives a bespoke service; coupled with leading professional hair and beauty products.

They say proudly: "Our team are

## ADVERTISING PROMOTION

fantastic, they genuinely care about every client and through their strong team ethos and sheer professionalism create a great salon experience for each and every customer.

"We are looking forward to welcoming new clients who haven't been to us before and as a welcome gift we will be offering a 15 per cent discount on their first visit. They will then join our popular loyalty scheme which we run in the salon."

Hair Crew @ Ewenny is a 'cut above', offering a great experience in an idyllic village setting, superb service, amazing coffee and parking outside the salon! What more could we ask for?

For details, please visit their Facebook page, their website [www.haircrewld.co.uk](http://www.haircrewld.co.uk) or call the salon on 01656 655005.

## 2016 IS THE YEAR TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

**VOLUNTEERING** can be life changing. You can gain practical experience, new skills, enhance your CV, build your confidence, meet new people, gain a reference, access accredited training - or have a taster for a career change.

For many older people, the days can seem never-ending.

Many do not see anyone from one week to the next; sometimes no-one at all. The cold and early dark evenings are factors that prevent people going out.

This social isolation can have a devastating effect and also cause many health problems.

To have a little company can make a vast improvement, which is why we are looking for volunteer befrienders. As little as two hours per week can make a huge difference to an older person; just having a chat and a

cup of tea can bring a little happiness.

We are also looking for volunteer drivers who could also assist with shopping or doctor/hospital appointments.

You will need to be reliable, have good listening skills, and be empathetic with the needs of older people.

We have over 500 volunteering opportunities available, so please contact GVS on 01446 741706 or e-mail [volunteering@gvs.wales](mailto:volunteering@gvs.wales) for further information.

### Top 10 Volunteering opportunities



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1

**Part Subsidiary, Part Future** delivers a combination of 1-1 case work for offenders resettling from prison into the community and drop-in support groups. To deliver this project we require a team of Through the Gate volunteer members. Ref 453

2

Would you like to help with the "Shine" childcare project? You would support interaction at stay and play sessions through meaningful play. Ref 379

3

Interested in outdoor volunteering? You can help with gardening, conservation projects etc. Ref 741/396/825

4

Help to raise funds for life limited children by volunteering in our charity shop. You can help with steaming, tagging, sorting, window displays, use of the till and customer service. Ref 227

5

Would you like to teach first aid? As an event first aid tutor you will provide first aid and life saving training to those who would like to learn the skill. Ref 761

6

**Home Visiting Volunteers** are required to support local families within the Cardiff area with at least one child under the age of five, requiring emotional or practical support, friendship and a listening ear. Ref 491

7

**Support the RMLI!** We are looking for volunteers to help in the Barry Island Visitor Centre, helping with customer service, stock display, replenishment. Ref 384

8

Support individuals engaged in affiliated substance misuse projects. This could include buddying/ befriending, social diversionary activities, drop-in centres, criminal justice work. Ref 172

9

**Barry Sea Cadets** are looking for volunteers to train their young people in seamanship, adventure, boating. Ref 21

10

**Neighbourhood Resolution Panels and Community Panels** bring local communities together, using restorative and reparative approaches to agree resolutions that can be achieved to move forward. Ref 893

Contact GVS visit [www.gvs.wales](http://www.gvs.wales), e-mail [enquiries@gvs.wales](mailto:enquiries@gvs.wales) or call 01446 741706

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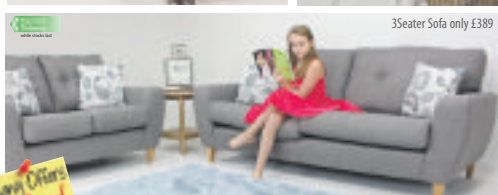
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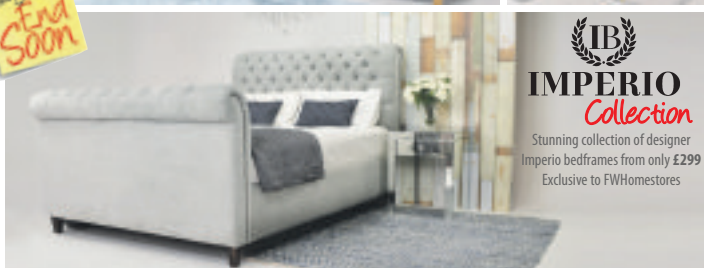
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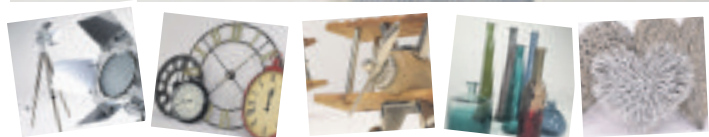
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# A BLAST FROM THE PAST - 1978

**THE GEM's**  
**Brian Lee**  
takes another  
look through his  
press  
books - this time  
for 1978, when  
**Coychurch's Paul**  
**Hamer was making**  
**the headlines:**

Under the heading  
'Dashing Hamer Grabs  
Dead-Heat', I wrote:  
'Paul Hamer rode a  
powerful finish on  
*Prince Haven 11* to  
force a dead-heat with  
*Knight's Queen* in the  
restricted open at the  
Pembrokeshire Hunt  
Steeplechases on  
Saturday. John  
Llewellyn, rider of  
*Knight's Queen*, also  
scored on *Fly Dai* and  
*Dolwen Wood*.

The BMW open race  
at the meeting was won  
by *Sunny Kumar*, which  
beat *Romany Park* and  
*Trefelyn Heather* and  
Vernon Beynon riding  
*Mr Ming* won the  
maiden race.

'Mandryka again!' was my heading for my  
report on the Brecon  
Hunt Steeplechases at  
Llanfrynach: 'Despite  
being headed on the  
run-in, 14-year-old  
*Mandryka* fought back  
to beat his old rival  
*Sampson Brass* on  
Saturday. *Mandryka*  
was winning his 43rd  
race.'

Llancafarn's Mary  
Williams finished third  
on *Underhill* which  
went off the 6-4  
favourite and those who  
backed *Mandryka* were  
rewarded with odds of  
4-1.

At the Curre Hunt  
Steeplechases that year,  
Rhonda's Shan  
Morgan chalked-up her  
40th winner when  
bringing the mighty  
*Mandryka* to beat *Cold*  
*George* by 20 lengths in  
the ladies' open race.  
Of the 15 starters, only  
seven finished the  
course and several  
riders received injuries.  
Miss V Hill, who took a  
first fence tumble from  
*Ballinda*, was taken to  
hospital with a  
suspected broken pelvis.

It was at this meeting  
that Brian Price landed  
a double with *Abbot's*  
*Delight* in the restricted  
and *Craig Miss* in the  
adjacent. John Beavis  
was also in fine form  
winning on

*Tempestuous* (members)  
and *Mischiefous King*  
(maiden).

Cowbridge's John  
Llewellyn bagged a  
double on Bert Lavis's  
pair *Gin Penant* and  
*Darwin* at the Vale of  
Clettwr Hunt  
Steeplechases.

*Darwin*, backed from  
3-1 to 1-2 favourite,  
scored by six lengths  
from *Queen's County*,  
ridden by Bridgend's  
David Oakes, in the  
maiden race (division 2)  
and *Gin Penant* beat  
*Lazy Lady* (Robert  
Oakes).

The ladies' open race  
went to *Port-n-Lemon*  
and Ann Ostman, who

just got home by a head  
from *Mandryka*.

At the Crawley and  
Horsham meeting,  
*Linden Lad*, owned by  
Cowbridge's Diane  
Sloman, won the ladies'  
open race and I reported  
the sad news that at the  
Beaufort Hunt meeting,  
farmer's son John  
Pickford had been killed  
when his mount  
*Lacking Ray* fell at the  
fifth fence and rolled on  
top of him. Aged just  
28, he had recently  
returned from Australia.  
*Lacking Ray* was his  
own horse and was a  
recognised and hesitant  
jumper.

The race was won by  
*Accord*, which used to  
be owned by  
Cowbridge's Mrs Sue  
Williams and a gamble  
on Welsh point-to-  
pointer *Border*

*Merchant* went astray  
when the six-year-old  
finished third in a  
division of the restricted  
race.

There were 24  
runners for the men's  
open and Rose Harry's  
*Fitz*, partnered by John  
Llewellyn, finished  
third behind *Sparkford*  
and *Midway Welcome*.

At the Banwen  
Miners, Cefn Soloman  
scored a shock 20-1 win  
in the men's open. Tiny  
Cefn Soloman took over  
the lead at the second  
last fence to win by  
three lengths from the  
pacemaking favourite  
*Heron'slea*. Cefn  
Soloman's owner,  
Dillwyn Thomas, a  
steward at the meeting,  
said: "Paul Hamer rode  
an excellent race."

*Mandryka* was a 20  
lengths winner of the  
ladies' open race and  
Barry Thomas won the  
maiden on *April Lady*.

When I interviewed  
Peter Scudamore after  
he had won the adjacent  
race on *Melivan* at the  
Monmouthshire point-  
to-point at Llanvayle,  
little did I think that I  
was interviewing  
someone who would  
become one of the most  
successful National  
Hunt jockeys of all  
time.

I certainly had a  
scoop that day as he  
told me that he was  
going to turn  
professional. I  
remember the occasion  
well, as he was with his  
father Michael, who had  
won the 1959 Grand  
National on *Oxo*, and  
his grandfather  
Geoffrey, who had also

ridden in point-to-  
points.

As it happened,  
*Melivan* beat *Reveris*,  
who was ridden by  
Cowbridge's Mary  
Williams.

The men's open race  
that day went to  
*Sparkford*, a very useful  
performer, who was  
ridden by John Bryan  
and the ladies' open  
race to *Linden Lad*  
ridden by Rosemary  
White with Mary taking  
second place again on  
*Underhill*.

'Plunger disqualified'  
was the heading of one  
of my end of the season  
reports and I wrote:  
'Barton Williams' tail-  
spinning *Plunger*, who  
finished first in the  
maiden race at the  
Llangeinor Hunt point-  
to-point on May 13, has  
been disqualified.  
*Plunger* had not  
qualified with one of  
the required adjacents  
hunts.

'The race has now  
been awarded to June  
Jones' *Lord Belvedere*.  
It also appears that  
Welsh officials have  
blundered in allowing  
*Plunger* to run in any  
maiden races at all.  
According to Horse and  
Hound Hunter Chasers  
and Point-To-Pointers  
annual, the horse had  
won as a three-year-old  
over 12 furlongs.

'A maiden' is a  
horse which, at the time  
of starting, has never  
won a steeplechase,  
hurdle race or any other  
race under the rules of  
any recognised turf  
authority - point-to-

point races included.

...And to end on a  
more positive note, I  
wrote: 'Top-spot Hamer  
Marks Up Diary'.

'September 29 -  
that's the date Paul  
Hamer has marked  
down in his diary. It's  
the day when the 18-  
year-old Coychurch  
welder will be heading  
for London, where the  
National Point-To-Point  
dinner takes place.

"Paul, who used to  
ride in local gymkhanas,  
will be presented with  
the Grand Mariner  
novices riders'  
championship trophy.

"Before the start of  
the point-to-point  
season just ended, Paul  
had ridden just one  
winner but, taking over  
from the injured Henry  
Blake as stable jockey to  
Bridgend owner  
Dillwyn Thomas, he  
chalked up a remarkable  
10 winners - two more  
than his nearest rival  
Lucy King.

"One of Paul's best  
riding feats was scoring  
a shock win on *Prince*  
*Haven 11* over the odds-  
on *Jimm Lad*. Then  
down in Devon, he and  
little Cefn Soloman got  
the better of the  
experienced Richard  
Miller on the fancied  
*Joed*."

I would be pleased to  
hear your news/views  
and see any point-to-  
point pictures you  
would like to share with  
other GEM readers.

Email  
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736438.

## Older people's charity sounds cold snap alert

AS the Met Office issued a level-two cold weather alert this week, older people's charity Independent Age warned older people, their families and carers to take extra care. It's also providing a free advice leaflet on how to stay well in winter, called 'Being Winter Wise'.

Last year, the ONS found that an estimated 36,300 excess winter deaths occurred in Wales and England in 2014/15 among people aged 75 and over. In addition to this, according to a recent poll, an estimated 752,000 older people have had to choose between paying for food and paying for heating and almost half (43 per cent) of those aged 65 and over say they have gone to bed early to stay warm at least once.

'Being Winter Wise' is free to order and download from [www.independentage.org](http://www.independentage.org) or call 0800 319 6789 to order a leaflet.

## Ty Hafan lottery winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D914.

● £2,000: 113338.  
● The rollover was not won this week.

● £10: 518816, 628330, 819892, 494576, 398998, 291620, 762750, 783579, 430361, 888210, 599971, 793346, 777800, 684931, 409561, 705093, 901611, 832460, 162021.

● £5: 319646, 301571, 734964, 868549, 192829, 639594, 561059, 331603, 408582, 798818, 409573, 344873, 737065, 821472, 629831,

107235, 880252, 812002, 174222, 432498, 288059, 722743, 595721, 584717, 269863, 876646, 562977, 319518, 144744, 635775, 186436, 747253, 480626, 812067, 582688, 582125, 530673, 328256, 604732, 172898, 761342, 305278, 134798, 356940, 797430, 566424, 612631, 768320, 937770, 577786, 537290, 325518, 247686, 381581, 165258, 615177, 724, 988.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.



# Italy, Poland and Portugal targeted... Overseas recruits join hospital nursing teams

**THE first group of overseas nurses recruited by ABMU Health Board this year, have been busy getting to know their new colleagues and patients at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend.**

The five new starters from Italy and Romania have now begun carrying out duties on the wards and say they are "excited" to be joining the hospital's nursing team.

Federica Palumbo, who is working on wards seven and eight with surgical patients, was delighted with her new workplace.

"I like it very much. I am very glad to be here and to start working at the hospital," she said.

A further 11 recruits, who come from Poland and Portugal, are set to begin at Singleton and Morriston hospitals over the next couple of months.

ABMU's Director of Nursing and Patient Experience Rory Farrelly said: "We are delighted to welcome our latest recruits. I am sure they will be real assets to the teams they are joining and know their new colleagues will do all they can to make them welcome."

The nurses are all fully qualified in their own countries, but while their official registration with UK regulator the Nursing and Midwifery Council is being transferred, they will be working on the wards wearing the green

uniforms of healthcare support workers.

Rather than waiting, this gives them a chance to get straight to work on the wards after arriving in Wales, getting to know the hospitals and supporting the daily duties of their new, registered nursing colleagues.

To help them settle in, besides help with banking and accommodation provided by the health board's HR department, the nurses are allocated a 'buddy', a member of the team who works alongside to show them the ropes.

"It is only my first day, but everybody has been very kind to me and I am getting to know people," said Piergiacomo Bruzzo, who is working on ward four.

The group, along with the first wave of overseas nurses who joined AMBU in the autumn, were all recruited as part of the health board's ongoing campaign to boost nursing ranks across its hospitals.

The drive has seen senior staff heading to several European countries to source suitable talent as well as using Skype to hold interview sessions with nurses from the Philippines.

Pledging that the recruitment campaign will continue, Professor Farrelly said: "We know that our reputation abroad is helping us to attract high calibre staff and we look forward to finding more nurses who meet our standards. "But even though we



**ABOVE:** Romanian Camelia Carlan (on left), pictured with her 'buddy', staff nurse Hannah Gilbert.

are going further afield, doesn't mean we are not still looking for staff locally and nationally.

"We know how important it is for both our staff and patients that we have a full-strength nursing workforce and will be holding more recruitment days throughout the year.

"Focusing on current opportunities for newly qualified and experienced nurses across our hospital and community services, these open days also offer nurses who have been out of nursing for some time the opportunity to return."

Jobs are regularly advertised on the NHS and the health board's own recruitment page [www.abm.wales.nhs.uk/nursejobs](http://www.abm.wales.nhs.uk/nursejobs)

The next recruitment day will be on Saturday, February 27 at Morriston Hospital's Education Centre between 10am and 3pm; email [Lesley.Bevan@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Lesley.Bevan@wales.nhs.uk).



**ABOVE:** Federica Palumbo with lead nurse Alison Martynski.



## Estyn watch is lifted from local schools

**THREE Bridgend county borough schools have been removed from the list of those requiring monitoring by Estyn, BCBC said this week.**

Inspectors had judged that good progress has been made to address a series of key recommendations at Archbishop McGrath Catholic School in Brackla, St Mary's and St Patrick's Primary School in Maesteg, and Nantymoel Primary School.

When Archbishop McGrath Catholic School was inspected in February 2013, its current performance and prospects for improvement were both rated as 'adequate'.

A post-inspection action plan was drawn up to address the seven recommendations made by inspectors to improve areas such as performance at key stages 3 and 4, pupils' attendance, the quality of teaching, and the consistency of provision for developing pupils' skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT skills across the curriculum.

Following a return visit to review developments at the school in October, the Estyn inspection team reported that progress is being made in addressing all of the recommendations and has announced that the school will therefore be removed from the Estyn monitoring category, a spokesperson said.

At St Mary's and Patrick's Primary School, inspectors had reported 'adequate' current performance and

'good' prospects for improvement when they visited in July 2014. But strong progress had since been made to improve outcomes in key stage 2, while 'very good progress' has been made in the four other improvement areas, including school attendance and increasing pupils' confidence in speaking Welsh.

When Nantymoel Primary School was inspected in June 2014, Estyn found that the current performance was 'good' and prospects for improvement were 'adequate'. After being monitored for the next 12-months, Estyn conducted a follow-up inspection to see how much progress had been made to address the recommendations made in their post-inspection action plan.

Satisfactory progress has been made in relation to four of the six recommendations, including improving school attendance and developing opportunities for outdoor learning, while strong progress has been made in the remaining two recommendations – making effective use of assessment information, and stabilising the senior leadership team.

Coun Huw David, BCBC's Deputy Leader, said: "It is excellent news that Estyn has recognised the significant progress that has been made in each of these schools. All three schools have worked very hard to address the recommendations that were made and there will be no further Estyn monitoring visits in relation to these inspections."



**Alice and Rachael with their awards.**

## KENFIG HILL GROUP CELEBRATES AS... Alice and Rachael become top Guides!

**CONGRATULATIONS to Alice Webber and Rachael Duffy of 1st Kenfig Hill Guides on completion of their Baden Powell Award, which is the highest award that can be achieved as a Guide.**

The award shows a great commitment and enthusiasm to Guiding as it takes over a year to complete.

In order to obtain the badge Alice and Rachael had to complete 10 challenges, which involved supporting global awareness, healthy lifestyles, discovering new things, celebrating diversity and developing skills and relationships.

They also had to participate in a Baden Powell adventure weekend in Brecon, mid Wales, where they faced new and exciting challenges and experiences.

Alice, aged 16, is a pupil at Porthcawl Comprehensive School and Rachael, aged 15, attends Cynffig Comprehensive School.

A presentation evening was held to

honour Alice and Rachael's achievement on January 13 at Kenfig Hill Scout and Guide Hall where they were presented with their awards by the County Commissioner of Girl Guiding, Central Glamorgan, Caroline Harries.

The 1st Kenfig Hill Guides would like to say a big thank you to the Mayor of Bridgend, Coun Richard Young, Mayoress Mrs Annette Young, County Commissioner for Girl Guiding Central Glamorgan Caroline Harries, Assistant County Commissioner Kim Helling, chair of Pyle Community Council, Coun Gina Hooper, and representatives from Pyle community for joining them in their celebrations.

A big thank you also goes to all the Guides who brilliantly provided the evening's entertainment.

The Guide leaders would also like to congratulate Alice and Rachael who are fantastic role models for younger Guides who may also aspire to achieve this award in the future.

SM

## Newton Post office closes after 40 years

**NEWTON sub post office recently closed its doors – after nearly 40 years service to the village community in Porthcawl.**

It was built in 1940, originally as a butcher's shop and where, apparently, the meat hooks and tiles can still be detected behind the wallpaper.

When this business closed, it became a grocer's shop, before changing to an antique centre and subsequently converting to the local sub post office.

The black and white photograph captures the post office as it was in June 1977, very little difference from today's images, except for the automatic cash machine occupying half of what was once the front window.

However, the village is not to be left without a post office, as this facility has been transferred to 'Bargain Booze' just around the corner.



**The recently closed Post Office at Newton.**



**The Post Office in 1977.**

## Name your local hero for Mayor's top citizen award

**LOCAL residents are again being urged to nominate a local hero for a Mayor's Citizenship Award.**

The Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Coun Richard Young, said: "Each year, the Mayor's Citizenship Awards give us a chance to say thanks to the unsung heroes who are making such an impact in our local communities.

"Last year's award winners included a number of volunteers, fundraisers who collectively raised thousands of pounds for good causes, and other residents who are putting their communities on the map in a positive way.

"I would invite as many people as possible to send in their nominations for this year's awards, and help us to raise awareness of the amazing things that local people do."

Organised by BCBC, the awards are open to people who live in the county borough, as well as local groups and businesses based locally.

Visit the Mayor's pages at [www.bridgend.gov.uk](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk) to download a nomination form and find out more.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, January 29. The award winners will be honoured at an event hosted by the Mayor at the Civic Offices in Bridgend in March.

## BAVO'S DROP-IN SESSIONS

**EACH month, voluntary and community groups in Bridgend county borough can drop into Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) for free help and guidance in running groups or organisations.**

Help and support can include advice on constitutions, finding funding, fundraising, policies, applying for grants and lots more.

The next drop-in sessions are on Thursday, February 25 from 2pm-4pm and Thursday, March 24 from 2pm-4pm.

No appointment is necessary; just drop in! For further details, call BAVO on 01656 810400, or email [bavo@bavo.org.uk](mailto:bavo@bavo.org.uk).



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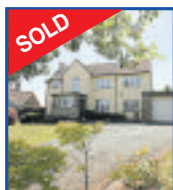
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# THE 'IRON HORSES' WERE ON SHOW IN PORTHCAWL DURING CHARITY RUN

WHAT do you do on a cold, wet, foggy January morning? Do you get up at the crack of dawn, start your tractor, or 4x4 up and go for a drive? Well, that is what members and friends of the Glamorgan Iron Horse Vintage Society did on Sunday.

They assembled at Cwm Risca Farm, Tondu, courtesy of the Anthony family and then headed off to Porthcawl for a break at Salt Lake car park.

Thanks also go to the Evans family, Coney Beach.

Porthcawl RNLI came along with their tractors which generated a lot of interest.

Then it was time to head out around the promenade and off to Bridgend. The purpose of the run was to raise much needed funds for two very worthwhile charities - Wales Air Ambulance' and Velindre.

About 35 tractors, vintage, classic, modern and 4x4s took part and raised a total of £750.

Chairman Mr Richard Rees said: "Despite the weather, it turned out to be a very worthwhile event raising valuable funds for our chosen charities. I must express my thanks to all concerned, drivers, our hosts, the backroom boys and girls and, of course, the people who donated.

"It is not the easiest type of event to organise, careful consideration must be given to the route and other road users. When I saw the fog in the morning, I wondered if we might have to cancel."

DAVE KING



## PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

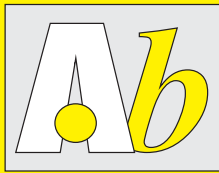
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## LLANTWIT MAJOR - £180,000



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## LLANTWIT MAJOR - £129,950



Three bedroom mid terrace house situated in a cut-de-sac. Open plan living area/Kitchen area and bedroom with wet room to ground floor. Three bedrooms and Bathroom to first floor. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows. Driveway with parking to front and low maintenance garden to rear. No onward chain. Ref 842D.

## LLANTWIT MAJOR - £179,500



Modern three bedroom semi-detached house with attached garage and conservatory to the rear comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Dining Room, En-suite shower room, Family Bathroom. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows. Driveway and garden to front and rear. Ref 845D.

## ST ATHAN - £99,500



Modern three bedroom end of link house with Conservatory to the rear comprising Utility Room, Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. Gas central heating. Double glazed windows and doors. Garden to the rear with access. Allocated parking. No onward chain. Ref 840D.

## ST ATHAN - £115,000



Modern two double bedroom mid terrace house situated at West Vale, St Athan. Reception Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows. Gas central heating. Good size store room/garden store. Open plan to front and well laid good size rear garden. Allocated parking to the side. Ref 824D

## LLANTWIT MAJOR - £175,000



Modern well presented Georgian style three bedroom semi-detached house and garage comprising Hallway, Lounge/Dining Room, Modern fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and off road parking. Neatly laid garden. Ref 832D.

## LLANTWIT MAJOR - £210,000



Stone built two bedroom terraced cottage situated in a sought after area comprising Hallway, Living Room/Dining area, Inner Hall, Utility area, Wet Room/Shower room. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows. Terrace garden to front. Vegetable plot adjacent. Timber framed garage to the rear with access. Ref 834D.

## ST ATHAN £157,500



Modern well maintained three bedroom semi-detached house and garage comprising hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Modern fitted Kitchen, Modern fitted Bathroom. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors for the most part. Driveway and open plan garden to front and neatly laid rear garden. Viewing recommended. Ref 837D.

## WICK - £180,000



Established extended four bedroom family house situated in a terrace of three comprising Hallway, Living Room, Dining Room, Breakfast area, Fitted Kitchen, Ground floor Wet/Shower room, Family Bathroom, Playroom/Study in the roof space. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows. Good size garden. Ref 836D

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### OBAN STREET, BARRY

- A well presented 2 bedroom Victorian bay fronted mid terrace property
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Forecourt garden to the front with a raised garden to the rear
- Would make an ideal first purchase/family home
- Offered freehold

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- Offered freehold

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### LYDSTEP ROAD, BARRY

- An three bedroom semi detached property with single garage & driveway
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Enclosed gardens to front & rear
- Potential to buy fully/part furnished if desired
- Offered freehold with no onward chain

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### MOREL STREET, BARRY

- 2 bedroom mid terrace property within walking distance to the town centre
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Close to transport links in & out of Barry
- Low maintenance garden to the rear
- Sold freehold with no onward chain

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### BARRY ROAD, BARRY

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## PENCOED RFC RUGBY ROUND-UP

# Phoenix rising after all the wet weather!



Hannah Seward.



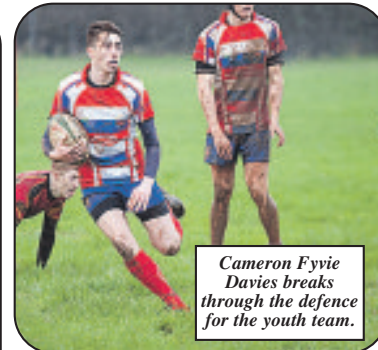
Kathryn Stonehouse.



Jade Mullen.



JULIE HANCOCK was on hand to capture the action from Pencoed Phoenix's game against Skewen.



Cameron Fyvie Davies breaks through the defence for the youth team.



Liam Parrish.



Dewi Parrish.



Katie Murphy reaches out for a tackle.

FOLLOWING the recent wet weather, Pencoed Phoenix made the early running with full back Leanne Burnell taking play into the visitors' 22, and the home side opened the match scoring from a resultant penalty, Hannah Seward slotting the three points.

Michaela Excel and Amy Stevens put in solid tackles in their own 22 to check the visitors. However, early injuries reduced the home side to 13 players, the visitors capitalising immediately with a try from Ospreys centre Donovan.

Phoenix's problems were soon compounded when picking up a yellow card; the pacy Donovan broke again to score a converted try at the posts.

On the resumption of play, a 70m counter attack from Burnell almost brought a Phoenix score, the home side continued on the attack. A kick ahead from Stevens saw outside half Jade Mullen break, before a pop pass from Stevens out of the tackle saw Seward sprint in from 22 metres. The last play of the half saw Skewen stretch their lead to 8-19, with Donovan racing over for her try hat trick.

Two early second half tries from the visitors stretched their lead to 8-33 and a wide margin of victory for the visitors looked a distinct possibility. However, a depleted home side with threequarter Stephanie Edmunds in the 'boilerhouse' saw evergreen Leigh Francis coming out of semi-retirement to help her side stage a gutsy fight back.

Combined play from Stevens, Rhianydd Morgan, and Mullen saw Phoenix hold close up before the visitors cleared their lines. Phoenix then got their second try, Burnell picking up the ball some 60m out before accelerating through the visitors' midfield and a well controlled kick and chase from the fleet-footed full back saw her touch down for a remarkable try.

Phoenix finished the match strongly and further carries from the industrious Kathryn Stonehouse, Excel, Stevens, and Mullen laid the foundation for Seward to crash over at the posts before adding the extras.

Phoenix can feel

more than satisfied with the final match scoreline of 20-33 in the circumstances against past National Cup winners Skewen, and the Cup tie itself a great advertisement for women's rugby.

### Pencoed Youth v Wattstown Youth

PENCOED Youth defeated Wattstown Youth by 12 points to 7 in this hard-fought match at the Woodlands ground.

Having experienced a 22-7 defeat against the Rhondda Valley side earlier in the season this was a good win for Pencoed. The home pack took the honours on this occasion, with skipper

Liam Parrish, brother Dewi and second rows Dan Watkins and Dan Watts prominent, along with second half try scorer Zac Taylor, Dewi Parrish having given his side the lead in the first half.

Jacob Lloyd added a fine conversion of Taylor's try and Pencoed overcame the 5-7 interval deficit to run out deserved winners, withstanding sustained late pressure from the visitors in their own 22 with a determined defensive effort.

Final score: Pencoed Phoenix 20, Skewen Ladies 33.

On Saturday, Pencoed Youth meet Waunarlwydd at home in the Ospreys A League.

## What's on, and where?

**Jobseekers' breakfast**  
JOB SEEKERS aged 16 - 24 needing advice can join Bridgend Communities First for a free breakfast and chat at Maesteg Sports Centre on January 27 from 9.30am - 12.30pm.

For further information contact 01656 642606 or email cf.besp@bridgend.gov.uk; Bridgend Communities First is funded by the Welsh Government.

**Free drop-in sessions**  
EACH month, voluntary and community groups in Bridgend county borough can drop into Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) for free help and guidance in running groups or organisations.

Help and support can include advice on constitutions, finding funding, fundraising, policies, applying for grants and lots more.

The next drop-in sessions are on Thursday, February 25 from 2pm-

4pm and Thursday, March 24 from 2pm-4pm. No appointment is necessary; just drop in! For further details, call BAVO on 01656 810400 or email bavo@bavo.org.uk.

**Summer carnival in Porthcawl**  
PORTHCWAL Buccaneers Carnival will take place on Saturday, July 23, and the theme will be 'life on the beach'.

The theme incorporates lifeboats, fishing, beach events, mermaids and Neptune, mardi gras, Brazil, historical and mythological. It will be led by the Westside Allstars comedy marching band.

The carnival field will have a travelling fair, stalls including airbrush tattoo, face painting, toy stalls, tombolas and food outlets and a magic workshop for children; entrance is free.

To enter a float, walkers or to have a stall, leave a message on Porthcawl Buccaneers Facebook page or email Kerry Marlow on marlowk@sky.com.

## Orthopaedic plant gets a VIP visit!



BRIDGEND AM and First Minister Carwyn Jones is pictured on a visit to the Zimmer Biomet plant at Waterton Industrial Estate, Bridgend.

The plant produces advanced orthopaedic devices - knee and hip replacements and complex medical instruments designed to restore mobility to patients suffering from musculoskeletal conditions and traumatic injuries.

Mr Jones said: "It was a very interesting visit to

Zimmer Biomet. I had a tour of the plant to see for myself the work that they do and had the opportunity to speak to the UK Plant Director Dr Marc Kneissler and his team about their plans for the future.

"In their global operations, the Bridgend plant is their third biggest plant, it is important in their global footprint. It was also interesting to hear more about the company's world class research and development department based at Bridgend which is working with the UK's top universities."

## COWBRIDGE DARTS LEAGUE ROUND-UP

ON Tuesday January 12, a full programme of league matches was played.

With the Edmondres B having no game, Llanharri, by beating the Six Bells Inn 7-2, reclaimed top spot. In the all-Farmers Arms clash, the Farmers B (H&H) took the honours defeating the Farmers Arms 5-4.

In the other matches the Highwayman Inn won 6-3 against the Edmondres C and the Edmondres A defeated the Old Post Ladies 7-2.

In this match, Emma Hole, the league's youngest player who plays for the Old Post Ladies, hit a 90 three-dart out.

Present league standings, are: Llanharri (54 points), Highwayman Inn (51), Edmondres B (50), Edmondres

A (47), Edmondres C (39), Farmers Arms (37), Six Bells Inn (36), Farmers B (H&H) (32) and Old Post Ladies (14).

Next Tuesday, January 19, there is another full programme of league matches (league week 11). The Edmondres B hosts the Farmers B (H&H), the Edmondres C hosts the Edmondres A, the Farmers Arms hosts the Old Post Ladies and the Six Bells Inn hosts the Highwayman Inn. Llanharri do not have a game.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT



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## Family Notices

### GRIFFITHS

#### John Robert

Suddenly at the University Hospital of Wales Cardiff on January 6, Jonny Griff (ex Vale of Glamorgan Mayor and a Barry Town Councillor) of Trinity Street, Barry. Dearly beloved husband of Pamela, much loved dad of Nathan, Tracy, Rachel and the late Mark. Adored bampy of Charlotte and Evan, loving brother of David.

*John will be sadly missed by all his loving family and friends.*

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynenydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until his funeral service in the chapel on Monday, January 25 at 11am, followed by cremation at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations in lieu of flowers to the R.N.L.I.

### PRINCE

#### Barrian (Baz)

Peacefully on January 16 at Llandough Hospital surrounded by his loving family. Baz, well known of Barry and devoted husband of 55 years to Linda. Adored dad of Susie, Deby, Tracy, Anna-Marie and Emma. Respected son-in-law of Allan, Ken, Lee and Simon. Cherished grandad to Martin, Jamey, James, Kattie, Hayley, Gary, Ellie, Baz, Josh, Dana, Leah, William, Mika, Eva and great granddaughter Molly. Special brother of Vincent and Lyndsey, David and Lynne.

Resting at Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until being received into St Helen's Church on Wednesday, January 27. Requiem Mass will take place on Thursday, January 28 at 1.15pm.

Family flowers only, donations may be made at the service to British Heart Foundation in memory of Baz. Family request something blue be worn. Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis, 01446 407962.

### SMITH

#### Dilys Margaret (née Britton)

Peacefully but suddenly at Llandough Hospital on January 13, Dilys, beloved wife of the late Charles Smith, much loved mum of Jane, Gail and son-in-law Royston, cherished grandmother to Joelle, Jay, James, Joanna, Alexandra, Emma, Tasha and Nia, great grandma to Cerys and Millie.

*Dilys will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.*

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son until the funeral service in the Chapel of Rest on Wednesday, January 27 at 2pm, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations in lieu if so desired for the British Heart Foundation c/o the funeral director.

### HESLOP

#### Albert Frederick

Peacefully on January 16 at home, Albert, aged 95 years of Courtlands Park Road, Barry. Dearly loved husband of Joan, married for 73 years.

A loved father of Geraldine, Adrienne and father-in-law of Barrie and Peter. Cherished grandfather of Dawn, Sharon, Richard, James and great grandfather of Nicholas, Alex, William, Callum and Lily. Great grandfather to Layla. Brother of Olive.

*Albert will be sadly missed by all of his family and friends.*

Resting at A.G. Adams & Sons Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral on Tuesday, January 26. Service in the chapel at 1.45pm, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Family flowers only, if desired, donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Cancer Research UK and Parkinsons Disease.

### ENGLISH

#### Ruth Mitchell (Middle)

Suddenly at home on January 5. Ruth, loving wife of Russell. Much loved mum of Julie, David, Sandra and Trudy. Cherished nan of Peter, Abigail, James, Victoria, Stefan and great nan of Morgan.

*Ruth will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.*

Resting at Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at Barry Spiritualist SNU Church, Buttrills Road, Barry on Friday, January 29 at 2.45pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium.

Family flowers only – donations if desired may be made at the service to support PDSA in memory of Ruth. Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

### LEWIS

#### Avril

Peacefully after a short illness at Holme Tower, Penarth on January 17, Avril of Barry. Dearly beloved wife of the late John Lewis, much loved mum of Daryl and Sion. Mum-in-law of Sandra and Emma, adored Nana of Dylan, Tomos, Chay and Benjamin, loving sister of John, Jennifer and Sandra.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynenydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until her funeral service in the chapel on Tuesday, February 2 at 11am, followed by interment at Porthkerry Cemetery at 12 noon.

Family flowers only, but donations in lieu of flowers to Marie Curie Cancer Care (Holme Tower), Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR.

### THOMAS

#### Anne

Peacefully at Holme Tower on January 15. Beloved wife of Alun, much loved mum of Hugh and Rachel, loved gran of Mattias, Isabella, James and Jonathan, great gran to Stellan.

*Anne will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.*

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son until the funeral service at All Saints Church, Barry, on Friday, January 29 at 1pm, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations in lieu if so desired for Marie Curie Hospice Penarth c/o the funeral director.

### HILL

#### Elizabeth (Betty)

Peacefully on January 17 at Holme Tower, Penarth, Betty of Treoes and formerly of Borough Close, Cowbridge. Beloved wife of the late Peter, dearly loved mother of David, Carol, Vanessa and the late Gareth, much loved grandmother, great-grandmother and mother-in-law.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, January 25, service and cremation 1.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre c/o Mrs C James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhosce, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

### SULLIVAN

#### Pamela (née Lee)

Peacefully on January 9 in York. Beloved wife of the late Barry Sullivan and much loved mum of Carys and Claire. Also dearly missed by her mother Averil, brothers Anthony and David, and sister-in-law Bev.

Funeral service on Friday, January 22 at 11am at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Family flowers only, donations to St Leonards Hospice, York/Cancer Research UK.

### HURLEY

#### Leonard Francis

Peacefully on January 17 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Leonard the late husband of Joan, aged 90 years, of White Lodge, St Quentin's Close, Llanblethian, Cowbridge. He will be greatly missed by brother Malcolm. Dearly loved father of Christine, Frances and Phillip and much loved grandfather, great grandfather and great great grandfather.

Funeral service in Coychurch Crematorium on January 26 at 10.30am. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, for The British Heart Foundation or British Legion c/o funeral director.

### FRANCIS

#### John

Died suddenly but peacefully in hospital after a short illness on Sunday, January 17, aged 69 years. John of 29 Rhyd-y-Nant, Pontyclun, former teacher at Radyr Comprehensive school, member of Pendyrus male voice choir. Beloved husband of Glen and father of Glyn and Catherine, brother of Ros, dearest father-in-law of Rhian. Special 'Gugu' to Megan, Bleddyn, Evie, Owen and Gruff.

*Sadly missed by all who knew him and whose lives he touched.*

Service and cremation to be held at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.15pm on Wednesday, January 27. Family flowers only. Kind donations to the Air Ambulance c/o W.H. Preece & Son, Windrushe, Cardiff Road, Pontyclun, CF72 8PN.

## Acknowledgements

### CUMMINS

#### Ann Kathleen

Alan, Justine, and Nathan wish to thank family, friends and neighbours for their support and kind messages following the sad loss of Ann.

Special thanks to staff of East 18, Llandough Hospital, Crossroads in the Vale and Ty Hapus for their love and attention. Also to Canon Pat O'Gorman and the lovely Rebecca Evans for such a beautiful, celebratory service, and to Lyndsay Ellis and his colleagues for their caring and professional expertise.

### ORCHARD

#### Craig (Orch)

Jan, Pete and family would like to thank everyone for their love and support at this very difficult time, and sincere gratitude for your kind donations to Craig's memorial fund.

Special thanks go to Rev Huw Butler for his outstanding service, to Arthur at W.A. Brown & Son for all his help along with Katie for catering. Also, thanks to Jules, Kay, Jesse, Jon B, Rachael and Francine for all that you have done.

### JENKINS

#### John Stuart

Jo would like to thank everyone for their support, kind wishes and sympathy following John's passing.

She would also like to thank the Reverend Edward for his kind words and ministrations and Andrew Thomas, funeral director, for the dignified and professional funeral arrangements.

### FAIRCHILD

#### Richard Royden

*Passed away peacefully January 2nd, 2016*

Jean and children, Allan, Paul, Jacqueline, Jeanette, Raymond, Wendy and families wish to thank everyone for their messages of sympathy during their recent loss. Also for kind donations to Parkinson's UK in memory of Dick and for your attendance at the funeral service. Many thanks also to the Revd Jayne Shaw.

Dick will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

### LLOYD

#### Mansel

Peacefully on January 11 at his home in Llantwit Major, Mansel aged 86 years (former film editor with the BBC and Yorkshire Television). Much loved husband of Enid.

*Greatly missed by his loving family and friends.* Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, Pembroke House, Llantwit Major until the service in Bethel Baptist Church, Llantwit Major on Tuesday, January 26 at 12.45pm, afterwards to Coychurch Crematorium.

Family flowers only please, if wished donations (cheques only) for the Alzheimer's Society may be forwarded to the funeral home.

### REES

#### Michael John 'Mike'

Peacefully at home on January 11, after a long illness. Devoted husband of 50 years to long illness. Father to Chris, Nigel, Paul and Ian and proud grandfather. Friend to many.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the service to celebrate his life on Wednesday, January 27 at 11am. Afterwards committal service at Cardiff & Glamorgan crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 12 noon.

No flowers by request but donations in lieu to the British Heart Foundation via funeral director.

### GAY

#### Arthur David

Peacefully on January 12, at UHW, Cardiff, surrounded by his family, David of Llancafarn (retired architect of Andrews, Gay and Partners, Barry). Beloved husband of Kay, devoted father and grandfather.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday, January 26, service 12.45pm at St. Cadocs Church, Llancafarn, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 2pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if desired, to Kidney Research Wales c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhosce, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

### HARRISON

#### Michael Anthony

Tragically on January 11, Michael Anthony (Mike), aged 47 years, of St Athan, previously of Barry. Dearly loved husband of Tina. *Mike will be sadly missed by all of his family and friends.*

For further information regarding the funeral please contact A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry. Tel: 01446 735400.

### SUMMERFIELD

#### Gertrude Doreen (Gert)

Peacefully at home, aged 91 years of Barry. Dearly loved wife of Bill. A loved mother of Hilary, Gerald and mother-in-law of Roy and Heather. Cherished grandmother of Victoria, David, Christopher, Richard and great grandmother of Erin and Jack.

*Gertrude will be sadly missed by all of her family and friends.*

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the funeral on Thursday, January 28. Funeral service at Cadoxton Methodist Church Barry at 9am, afterwards cremation at Barry Crematorium, 10am.

### BINDING

#### Sylvia Irene

Passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 10, at the Waverley Nursing Home, Penarth. Much-loved mother of Neal and Philip, and adoring grandmother to Amy, Dylan and Vicky.

Funeral service and committal at The Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry, on Friday, January 29 at 12 noon.

Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, for the Crossroads in the Vale (c/o the funeral director Lyndsay Ellis).

### COOMBS

#### Michael

Suddenly while out walking, Michael, formerly of Alma Houses, Maesteg. Husband of Sandra, father of Lorna and Ralph, brother of Mary and Peter.

Funeral service at Bath Crematorium on Friday, January 22 at 1pm.



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Closing Date : 4th February 2016

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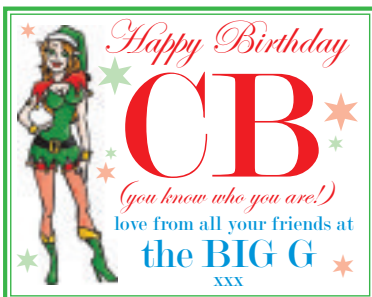
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## Birthdays



Lots of love  
from Auntie Julie & Uncle Les xxx



### Thank You

### A BIG THANK YOU!

Mavis Richards of Cardigan Crescent, Boverton, would like to say thank you to her neighbour Gloria Jenkins for being up on Sunday night. Also, thank you to the two lovely young policemen who kindly came out and rescued her & helped her get back into her house.

### Public Notice

**STEPHEN PATRICK O'CONNELL (Deceased)**  
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above-mentioned deceased, late of 45 Fitzhamon Avenue Llantwit Major Vale of Glamorgan CF61 1TP, who died on 26/08/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 24/03/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.  
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## The Vale of Glamorgan Council (LLANMAES ROAD, LLANTWIT MAJOR) (PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN (PUFFIN) CROSSING)

1. The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act (1984) (as amended) and of all other enabling powers intends to install a pedestrian (puffin) crossing for the reasons described in Schedule 1 and at the location described in Schedule 2 below.

2. Full details of the proposal and a copy of the plan (T/15/139/MS) may be inspected at the address shown below during normal office hours.

### SCHEDULE 1

It is envisaged that the installation of a pedestrian (puffin) crossing, with intelligent telemetry, will enhance pedestrian safety, especially children and vulnerable adults wishing to access the nearby recreational amenities via the footpath in Heol Ger-y-Felin.

A subtle kerbline alteration on the southern side of Llanmaes Road will ensure the retention of the mature trees, as well as improving the conspicuity of pedestrians at the crossing point.

### SCHEDULE 2

The centre of the pedestrian (puffin) crossing will be approximately 16 metres east of the centre of its junction with Four Acre Llantwit Major.

Dated this 21st day of January 2016

Mr. M. E. Punter  
Director of Environment & Housing  
Vale of Glamorgan Council,  
The Alps, Quarry Road, Wenvoe, CF5 6AA.



## Planning

## Cyngor Bro Morgannwg (CROESFAN CERDDWYR (PÂL) ARFAETHEDIG) (HEOL LLANFAES, LLANILLTUD FAWR)

1. Mae Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adran 23 Deddf Rheoli Traffig y Ffyrdd (1984) (ddiwygiedig), a phob pŵer galluogi arall, yn bwriadu darparu croesfan cerddwyr (pâl) am y rhesymau a ddisgrifiwyd yn Atodlen 1 ac yn y lleoliad a ddisgrifiwyd yn Atodlen 2 isod.

2. Bydd y cynnig llawn a chopi o'r cynllun (T/15/139/MS) ar gael i'w darllen yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol.

### ATODLEN 1

Drwy ddarparu croesfan cerddwyr (pâl) a chanddi system delemetrig ddeallus, rhagweldwn y gallwn gadw cerddwyr (yn enwedig plant ac oedolion bregus sy'n cerdded i'r cyfleoerau hamdden cyfagos ar hyd y llwybr troed yn Heol Ger-y-Felin) yn llawer mwy diogel.

Drwy symud ymyl y palmant ryw fyfyrn bach ar ochr ddeheuol Heol Llanfaes, gallwn nid yn unig gadw'r coed aeddfed ond hefyd sicrhau bod cerddwyr wrth y fan groesi'n haws eu gweld.

### ATODLEN 2

Bydd canol croesfan cerddwyr (pâl) y cyngor oddeutu 16 metr i'r dwyrain o ganol y gyffordd â heol Four Acre yn Llanilltud Fawr.

Dyddiedig 21 Ionawr 2016

Mr. M. E. Punter  
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau'r Amgylchedd a Thai,  
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,  
Canolfan yr Alpau, Heol y Chwarel, Gwenfô, CF5 6AA.





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## Reserves back in action – and back to winning ways!

**DINAS POWYS reserves carried on their winning ways after last playing in October.**

Within 10 minutes Dai Williams slotted, after one of the slickest one-two movements this season will produce to make it 1-0. Then some sloppy work from midfield allowed the Caerau striker to level the score.

The Villagers once again switched off and a reckless challenge allowed the visitors a

free kick to make it 2-1, but their never-say-die attitude showed.

The back four was coolly marshalled by skipper Paul Caulfield and it didn't take long for James Perret to latch on to a through ball and Cooley rounded the keeper to pass into an empty net.

Once again the Villagers were caught napping for the visitors to end the half at 3-2.

In the second half, Caerau came out firing on all four cylinders, and

it took an outstanding save from Ashley Newcombe to keep the Villagers in the game.

A quick counter-attack led to Luke Garland levelling the score. Scot Muir was introduced to the game and after some quality running and a show of strength, it didn't take long for him to net a brace of goals.

The visitors didn't lie down and their substitute grabbed one back. Courtney Aviet was winning most of the 50/50 challenges in the middle of the park, and two quick goals from Williams and Garland put the game to bed for Dinas, the final score 7-4.

The second half brought out the best from the Villagers with some outstanding performances but man of the match went to the outstanding performance from young Reuben Brill.

*Squad: Ashley Newcombe, Steve Miller, Rhys Turnbull, Paul Caulfield, Kurt Andrews, Luke Garland, James Alloway, Courtney Aviet, Reuben Brill, James Perret, Dai Williams, Tim Glossop, Scot Muir.*

JC

**SULLY Indoor Bowls Club have returned to Championship action after the Christmas break with games against Rhondda (away) and Newport (home), losing to Rhondda and beating Newport.**

Both games were important in the context of the league positions with four sides – Sully, Rhondda, Newport and Taff Ely – all in the mix.

**RHONDDA V SULLY** Due to Rhondda only having a four-rink stadium the game was a played over two sessions, three rinks in the morning and three in the afternoon.

The three Sully morning rinks played well and were unfortunate to be just one behind at the end of the session, leaving the afternoon rinks in with a good chance of landing

## Bridge results

**RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for January 18:**

1st Tony Disley and Phil Felman 73.74 per cent, 2nd Glenda Roberts and Liam Sheridan 64.14, 3rd Sue Norris and Su Summerhayes 61.36.

LE

## Sully bowlers enjoy mixed set of results

an excellent win.

Unfortunately one of the rinks went down heavily, losing by 16 shots which was the difference in the overall result.

Sully won on three of the six rinks, taking six points to Rhondda's 16.

**SULLY V NEWPORT** Newport came to Sully Stadium in confident mood and favourites to win the league but the Sully players were also charged up.

With Sully probably fielding one of their strongest teams, the game from the off was tight with very little in the scores throughout the first 10 ends.

Little had changed coming up to the 15th end where Sully held a slender advantage by just one shot.

Newport were pressing on all rinks but at end 18 Sully still held that one-shot lead and were responding well to the pressure.

The Sully breakthrough came on the 19th end when they took eight shots across the rinks to go nine ahead with two ends to play.

Another shot gained on the 20th end was followed by a further seven shots on the final end for a brilliant 17-shot victory, winning on three rinks, taking 16 points to Newport's six.

Sully travel to Rhondda for the second time in a couple of weeks on Saturday and a positive result will give Sully a chance of the league title.

**SULLY V BLAENAU GWENT**

Sully entered the WBA Knockout Cup this season for the first time in eight years and were drawn to play Blaenau Gwent at Sully.

The game took place on Sunday and once again Sully came up trumps, beating the first division side by just two shots, 81-79 to go into the quarter-final draw.

**SULLY O-60s**

The Sully O-60s have once again qualified for the knockout stages, having won their division and will play Merthyr at Pontardawe on Tuesday, February 9.

FP

## Wales set to face Northern Ireland and Ukraine

**WALES have announced two friendlies for March as part of the warm-up preparations for the European Championships.**

Chris Coleman's men will face Michael O'Neill's Northern Ireland at the Cardiff City Stadium on March 24, before facing the Ukraine on March 28 at the NSK Olympiyskiy Stadium in Kiev.

Northern Ireland and Ukraine have been drawn in the same group for this summer's finals in France, while Wales face Slovakia, England and Russia, and Coleman told the FAW website that he was eagerly anticipating both games: "We are delighted to be playing the two fixtures and they will be ideal preparation for our group games."

"Michael O'Neill has done a fantastic job as manager of Northern Ireland and I am delighted for him. This will be a great occasion for both sets of fans ahead of the finals."

"Meanwhile, the Ukraine are quality opposition and will be a real test for myself, the coaching team and the squad of players."

Wales are unbeaten in seven games against Northern Ireland, having won their last encounter in 2011 2-0, while their two previous games against Ukraine in 2011 ended in 1-1 draws.

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# Barry and District Ladies Skittle League results

## LATEST results for November 30:

First division: SV Gals (J Richards 31) 319, Breakaways (C Parfitt 32) 247; Special Angels (J Abram 29) 224, Barry Stars (C Bishops 25) 196; Space Finders (D Cleaver, H Webb 34) 325, Family Affair (S Nemes 34) 361; Coppers (S Ford 37) 336, Family and Friends (H Provis, J Kirby 35) 337; Bakers Dozen (B Martin 27) 244, Castle Bandits (N Macey 24) 214; Allsorts (C Brewer 28) 264, Cigar Ladies (L Webb 24) 250, Bobby's Girls (D Evans 29) 256, Colcot Ladies (P Johnson 26) 250.

Second division: Pila Palas (S Bennett 35) 325, SV Lights (P Forrester, M Selyas 32) 310; Cad Con Fillies (a Harry, J Gee 24) 240, Witchill Weebies (B Reed 27) 254; Castaways (S Billings 30) 279, Clickies (K Watts 26) 256; Vixens (T Curmick 33) 279, Red Admiral (M Gee 31) 295; Merry Makers (R Collins 23) 204, Rhooose Starlights (D Stradling 27) 246; Rhooose Ravers (A Aukley 24) 231, Witchill Widows (L Sullivan, S Murray 23) 230.

Third division: Hill Billies (D Steward, G Moorcraft 31) 316, Twilights (C Thomas, C Brown 33) 309; Persuaders (E Gardner 27) 225, Dolly Mixtures (E Bryan 23) 199; Westenders (S

Woodford 24) 243, Roller Coasters (B Maffey 25) 233; La Belles (J Williams 36) 324, Friends and Neighbours (C Ferris 3) 291; SV Ladies (S Halls 30) 279, Fallen Angels (D Richards 31) 301; Etcetera (C Mackintosh 30) 248, Airways Angels (L Taylor 27) 261.

Fourth division: Guardian Angels (L Harris 26) 207, Nite Outers (B Lowrie 22) 168; Challengers (J Jones 30) 287, Hell Raisers (C Davies 33) 291; Witchill Wanderers (V Kerlake 38) 324, Witches (C Green 34) 337; Rebels (S Oram 24) 187, Optimists (H Ball 22) 141; Uptown Girls (A Hobbs 26) 252, Living on the Spare (A Fill 21) 201; Off The Rails (L McCormack 24) 217, Socialites (A Hicks 24) 209; Odd Bods (K Dutton 29) 268, Aristocats (C Chatwell 27) 234.

Results for December 7:

First division: Breakaways (C Parfitt, B Thurston, L Smith, C Smith, J Swayne 30) 332, Special Angels (R Niblett 35) 320; Barry Stars (L Lambeth 36) 316, Space Finders (J Jones 34) 340; Family Affair (Sandra Wilson 33) 282, Coppers (J Hartnell 30) 252; Family and Friends (J Crompton, G Brown 25) 231, Bakers' Dozen (M Lewis 22) 210; Castle Bandits (L Nash 28) 254, Cigar Ladies (Aimee McCarthy, L Webb 26) 257; Bobby's Girls (N Toogood 24) 237, Allsorts (H Bunting, L Thomas 24) 240.

Second division: Witchill Widows (S Murray 36) 308, Pila Palas (H Palfrey 33) 319; SV Lights (P Beadle 31) 290, Cad Con Fillies (D Stringer 29) 264; Witchill Weebies (H Aspinall 34) 340, Castaways (J Martin 32) 330; Clickies (K Watts 32) 285, Vixens (A Brattle 32) 276; Red Admiral (H Selby 26) 227, Little Devils (S Jones 21) 209; After Eight (E Carmichael, P Mephram 34) 245, Rhooose Starlights (L Fields 35) 287; Rhooose Ravers (C Davidson 26) 209, Merry Makers (R Collins 27) 200.

Third division: Airways Angels (M Carpenter 24) 236, Rugby Triers (D Sherrin 28) 234; Divas (C Jenkins 22) 176, Hill Billies (G Moorcroft 29) 215; Twilights (M Saunders, T Davies 23) 204, Persuaders (F Organ 24) 195; Dolly Mixtures (S Burdge 29) 272, Westenders (M Condon 29) 262; Roller Coasters (L Gould 25) 233, La Belles (S Webber, S Curtis 24) 207; Friends and Neighbours (C White 24) 211, Fallen Angels (C Jones 27) 246, Etcetera (K Baker 27) 259, S V Ladies (K Lacey 30) 266.

Fourth division: Nite Outers (L Newman, M Hudson 25) 229, Challengers (B Binding, J Diamond 28) 234; Hell Raisers (A Bennett 25) 237, Witchill Wanderers (V Kerslake 24) 192; Witches (C Green 26) 227, Rebels (J Farr 23) 213; Optimist (E Playle 28) 263, Uptown Girls (J Marsh 29) 279; Living on the Spare (A Finn 40) 332, Off the Rails (L McCormack 35) 319, Socialites (J Fumis 27) 252, Liberals (A Boyd 27) 187.

## The Barry and District men's skittles league

### DIVISION 1:

Barry Park 'B' (P.Clark 32) 288, 49'ers (P.Solowyk, R.Bryan, S.Baggott, G.Yarr 25) 263; Blue Monkey (A.Penberthy 33) 284, Cavaliers (B.Kilgour 26) 244; Mighty Dockers (P.Davies 25) 258, Ex-Servicemen (P.Swannick 31) 240; The Hairly Lemons (T.Wyman 26) 246, Cavaliers (M.Ryan 29) 264; Barry Park 'B' (B. Batt, G. Goldsby 30) 286, Geest (S. R. Jones 29) 268.

### DIVISION 2:

Bufs Exiles (R.Miller 29) 253, Park Rangers (N.Bright 29) 81; 'H' Hells (B.White, J.Davies 26) 264, Cannon Balls (I.Fordyth 28) 276; Park Lads (M.Whyman 27) 263, Exiles (J.Miles, G.Mitchell 26) 246; The Royalists (M.Roberts

26) 258, Abercrete (R.Miller, J.Newton 27) 270; Tynny Flyers (L. Georgiou 28) 280, Posties (M. Churchill 30) 290; Willie Wombles (B.Nicholls, I.Draisey 30) 289, Witchill Poachers (R.Ashby, S.Rogers 27) 278.

### DIVISION 3:

Alteratives (J.Davies 28) 261, Billy Whizz (L.Hunt, J.Fallusia 27) 274; British Rail (T.Hill, B.Smith, J.Dakin, K.Brown 26) 256, KP Monkeynuts (P.Best 29) 246; Glenbrook Rangers (C.Davey 29) 267, C.U.D. (R.Perrington, R.Tipple, D.Perrington 26) 266; The Rejects (N.Donnelly 31) 307, Mariner Vikings (B.Allen, A.Burnell 32) 327; Up The Marines (A.Jones 25) 246, KP Monkeynuts (D.Bennett 24) 263.

HR

## The Barry and District league tables and results

### CRIB DIVISION 1:

Wyndham Cons A 2; Rhooose Social B 2; Cadoxton Cons 5; Market Street C 3; Moors Boys 10; Penarth Cons B 1; Wyndham Cons 8, West End Runaways 7.

League table: Savoy A 59, Harbour B 57, West End C 39, Wyndham Cons A 39, Cadoxton Cons B 37, \*Cadoxton Cons Z 33, Rhooose Social C 31, Rhooose Social B 27, Caddy Allstars 25, Market Street C 23 Penarth Cons B 21.

### SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

Rugby Club 4, Barries Boys 3; Rhooose Social A 3, West End D 4; Cambrian Flyers 1, Liberals A 6; Liberals C 4.5, Sea View B 2.5; Rhooosters 3, King William XII 4; Rhooose Social B 1, Rhooose Social C 6; West End C 5, Allsorts 2.

League table: Sea View B 70, West End D 61.5, King William XII 53.5, Rhooose Social B 53, Rugby Club 52.5, West End C 48, Slammers 45.5, Barries Boys 44.5, Allsorts 39, Rhooose Social A 39, Liberals A 38.5, Rhooosters 36.5, Rhooose Social C 34.5, Liberals C 34, Cambrian Flyers 29.

### SNOKER DIVISION 1:

Rhooose Social C 2, Caddy Allstars 3; and on Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'. JW

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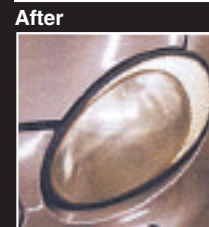
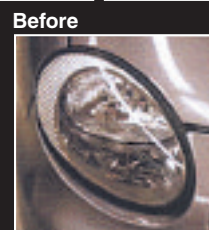
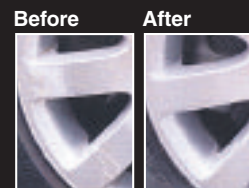
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